



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Gatineau Park Master Plan

July 2020

DRAFT

Canada

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Gatineau Park Master Plan
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Tobi Nussbaum

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Premier dirigeant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1	Introduction	8
1.1	Overview	8
1.2	General Description and Location of the Park	9
1.3	Context of NCC Planning	11
1.4	Federal Legislative and Planning Framework	11
1.5	A Precious Legacy	13
1.6	The Park Today	15
1.7	Planning Process and Public and Stakeholder Participation	19
2	Vision	21
2.1	Indigenous Perspective	23
3	Goals and Strategic Directions	25
3.1	Conserving Nature and Culture	27
3.2	Offer experiences in nature	29
3.3	Promote equitable and sustainable access	31
3.4	Foster engagement and collaboration	33
4	Planning Concept	34
4.1	Ecological Connectivity	34
4.2	Important Lands Outside the Park	37
4.3	Description of the Planning Concept	38
5	General Policies	42
5.1	Conserving Nature and Culture	43
5.2	Experiences in Nature	49
5.3	Equitable and Sustainable Access	55
5.4	Engagement and Collaboration	58
5.5	Real Property Management	61

6 Land Use Designations 64

A1 Wildlife Conservation Area 68

A2 Limited Recreation Conservation Area 72

B Outdoor Recreational Experience Area 76

C La Pêche Lake Recreational Area 82

D Philippe and Taylor Lakes Recreational Area 86

E Meech Lake Recreational Area 90

F Camp Fortune Intensive Recreational Area 94

G Mackenzie King Estate 98

H Institutional Area 102

I Visitor Reception Areas 106

7 Strategic Projects 110

7.1 Habitat Defragmentation – Responsible Trail Management Project 110

7.2 Quality of Experience Study and Visitor Data 110

7.3 Development of an Activity and Event Acceptability Matrix..... 111

7.4 Construction of a New Visitor Centre 111

7.5 Modernization of the Philippe Lake Campground 111

7.6 Protection and showcase of the Carbide Willson Ruins 112

7.7 Land Acquisition Strategy 112

7.8 Continued Implementation of the Sustainable Transportation Strategy 112

7.9 Review of the Pricing Framework 112

7.10 Protection of the Ecological Corridors 113

8 Master Plan Administration and Monitoring 114

8.1 Impact of the implementation of the master plan on previously approved plans 115

8.2 Implementation of the Master Plan 115

8.3 Adjustments to Park Boundaries 115

8.4 Recommendations for the National Interest Land Mass 116

8.5 Other Important Lands 116

8.6 Legal Status 116

8.7 Approval of Land Use and Design Projects 116

8.8 Amendments and Revisions to the Plan 117

8.9 Existing Agreements 117

9 Conclusion 118

DRAFT-JULY 2020



1 Introduction

1.1 OVERVIEW

Gatineau Park is the most significant natural space in the National Capital Region. This federal conservation park is an example of the natural landscapes that are representative of the Canadian Shield. It contributes to the region's natural and cultural heritage and its management is central to the mandate of the National Capital Commission (NCC).

Linking the present to the past, the remnants of its historical uses show how important the park was at the time to Indigenous communities and European and American newcomers. This special place adds to the quality of life of area residents and visitors alike. It contributes to their well-being and health, connecting them to nature through the beauty of its landscapes and the richness of the natural habitats found there.

This natural area plays an important role in maintaining the biodiversity and vitality of regional ecosystems. With some fifty lakes spread out across its territory, Gatineau Park is essentially covered by forests. Its location promotes the presence of diverse ecosystems and a rich biodiversity. The park is home to more than 5,000 species, including some not found anywhere else in the region. More than 150 plant and wildlife species at risk in Canada and/or Quebec have been identified in the park, including rare plant species. The presence of such a natural area near a major capital is rare.

Gatineau Park is a key component of environmental conservation efforts in the Capital Region. It is also a recreational area that is highly popular among residents and visitors alike. It is the second-ranked park in Canada in terms of annual visitors, after Banff National Park. Eighteen times smaller than Banff, it has a higher concentration of visitors based on its surface area¹. Every year, more than 600,000 people choose it as their destination. There are 2.6 million visits annually, with residents of the region accounting for 90% of that number.

¹ Number of annual visits per km²

Gatineau Park offers hiking and rock climbing, road, mountain and winter biking, swimming, picnics and camping, as well as cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowshoeing. The region’s natural and cultural wealth is also well represented.

Cultural heritage is a recognized value that is increasingly sought after by visitors. It tells stories that connect people to nature over time, stories about recreation, industry, agriculture, and early settlements. In Gatineau Park, the local, regional, and national significance of the built heritage, the archaeological resources and the historic parkways and gardens are of great appeal. The tangible and intangible heritage of this magnificent park deserves to be showcased. It provides a cultural experience of national significance and historical value.

1.2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE PARK

Gatineau Park is located less than 150 kilometres from important protected natural areas. These include Adirondack Park in New York State, Algonquin Park in Ontario, Thousand Islands National Park, and La Vérendrye and the Papineau-Labelle Wildlife Reserves in Quebec.

Map 1: Parks network – national scale







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Spanning some 50 kilometres between the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers, Gatineau Park covers 36,131 hectares, or 361 square kilometres or 7.7% of the total area of Canada's Capital Region. It is located northwest of the Gatineau-Ottawa metropolitan area, the fifth largest in the country, with a population of over one million. Some 200 kilometres away is the greater Montreal area, the most densely populated area in Quebec.

Gatineau Park is surrounded by rural areas, 80% of which are mainly agricultural. Its southern section extends into the urban areas of Gatineau, which distinguishes it from other Canadian national parks. Its territory overlaps four municipalities: Gatineau, Chelsea, La Pêche and Pontiac. It is adjacent to the City of Ottawa.

Most of the land in Gatineau Park is federally owned. Some, however, is privately owned, which is subject to local and regional planning and regulations.

Map 2 : National Capital Region

-  national capital region
-  parliament hill
-  Gatineau Park
-  greenbelt



1.3 CONTEXT OF NCC PLANNING

PLANNING AND MANDATE

The Gatineau Park Master Plan helps the NCC fulfill its role as a long-term planner for land use, conservation, recreation and the preservation of national symbols within its territory. The Plan supports the NCC’s mission under the *National Capital Act: To prepare plans for and assist in the development, conservation, and improvement of the National Capital Region in order that the nature and character of the seat of the Government of Canada may be in accordance with its national significance.*

In 2017, the NCC began a review of the 2005 Master Plan to update its vision, objectives, and policies. The exercise was also designed to adapt to changes in the park’s situation and its needs. In the same manner that this plan followed the strategic orientations of the 1999 Plan for Canada’s Capital, the 2020 Master Plan follows those of the Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017-2067.

PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The NCC plans and guides the use and management of federal lands in Canada’s Capital Region to ensure that the Capital reflects its national stature. It works with various stakeholders to showcase the Capital’s natural and cultural character.

The Gatineau Park Master Plan is a component of the Capital Master Plan. It is strongly aligned with the orientations in the Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017-2067, a foundational planning framework document for the NCC (see Chart 1). It is a planning tool and a collection of policies for supporting decision-making.

The Master Plan is also guided by the NCC’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2018-2023. This strategy outlines a targeted and innovative environmental leadership program in the Capital Region. It is comprehensive in scope and must be integrated into all NCC corporate plans, strategies, policies and activities. It is also expected to be innovative and to improve its ways of doing things.

1.4 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

FEDERAL LAWS

- ▶ Gatineau Park is located on federal lands and therefore subject to the laws of that level of government. A variety of federal laws, policies and strategies apply to it and guide how it is managed. These include, but are not limited to the following:
- ▶ *Species at Risk Act*;
- ▶ *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;
- ▶ *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*;
- ▶ Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation; and
- ▶ Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

As stewards of federal lands, the NCC must protect the habitats of legally protected species, and a conservation park must provide quality habitat to conserve its biodiversity.

Certain standards and policies regarding heritage and archaeological resources also apply. These include:

- ▶ Parks Canada’s Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada;
- ▶ Treasury Board Policy on Management of Real Property;
- ▶ Treasury Board Heritage Buildings Policy;
- ▶ Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) Code of Practice; and
- ▶ Memorandum of Understanding for the Co-management of Archaeological Resources, established in 2017 by the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, the Algonquins of the Pikwakanagan First Nation and the NCC.

Respecting these laws and government commitments is key to NCC’s decision-making for park planning and management.

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1.5 A PRECIOUS LEGACY

For centuries, the Ottawa Hills were a source of hunting, fishing, and berry gathering resources for the nomadic Anishinabeg who lived in the region. The confluence of the Gatineau and Outaouais rivers was a place to gather and trade. It was sometimes even a place of war between the peoples of the St. Lawrence basin and the Great Lakes. The archaeological sites found in what is now Gatineau Park are a testament to their presence.

From the 17th to the 19th century, French explorers and coureurs des bois crisscrossed the park as part of the fur trade. In the 19th century, the first settlers arrived there. Later, American, Irish, and Francophone families followed them. The end of this century saw the arrival of mining.

On the shores of Meech Lake and Kingsmere Lake, the resort industry began to flourish in the early 20th century. In 1903, Frederick Todd proposed a general plan for the region to the Ottawa Improvement Commission. This plan included urban and suburban parks, including a nature reserve around Meech Lake. He also recommended the purchase of land to implement this plan. In 1915, Sir Herbert Samuel Holt tabled a report recommending the creation of an expanded commission to implement this plan. He also put forward the idea of a national park. In 1927, the Mackenzie King government established the Federal District Commission (FDC). The new entity had the authority to acquire the lands for the proposed park.

In the early 1920s, recreational infrastructure and activities began gradually appearing in the park, with the support of organizations such as the Ottawa Ski Club. In 1934, the fear of forest loss in the Ottawa Hills as a result of logging gave rise to the Federal Woodland Preservation League. This organization, chaired by Roderick Percy Sparks, lobbied the government to acquire land. It ceased operations in 1947 when the FDC established a Gatineau Park advisory subcommittee, which was chaired by Mr. Sparks until 1954.

In 1938, the Mackenzie King government allocated the FDC its first-ever budget to make the first woodland acquisitions deemed important to conservation. When he died, William Lyon Mackenzie King bequeathed to the Canadian people his 231-hectare estate, which was added to the park. The estate was named after its donor. At that time, the FDC expanded the park's federal properties by 12,800 hectares.

In 1950, the Gréber plan proposed beautifying the capital with a 33,000-hectare park for outdoor recreation. The acquisition of land for the park continued under the authority of the NCC, which was created in 1958. A plan completed in 1968 laid the foundations for the park's land use. It also showcased its recreational functions, symbolic qualities, and natural beauty. Various construction projects were carried out to improve access to the park and recreational activities for residents and visitors.

In the early 1970s, 4,000 hectares of Quebec Crown land were added to the park under an agreement with Quebec's Ministère des Ressources naturelles. By the end of the decade, the park was 35,650 hectares in size.

In the early 1990s, the NCC acquired Camp Fortune and the Meech Creek Valley, bringing the total park area to 36,131 ha. A Master Plan, adopted in 1990, emphasized a balance between recreational and conservation activities. This approach was consistent with the NCC's new mandate to animate the capital, and this plan strengthened the park's recreational offerings.

With the 1999 Plan for Canada's Capital, Gatineau Park became a Category II natural heritage area². Its protection and management was now intended to preserve ecosystems first, and to provide recreational activities second. This designation gave precedence to natural processes and promoted the restoration of natural heritage.

After the federal government's *Species at Risk Act* came into force in 2002, and after a series of studies establishing the park's health, the 2005 Master Plan made a more pronounced shift towards protecting natural habitats. Gatineau Park was becoming the Capital's conservation park. Since then, the NCC has increased its efforts to monitor the health of the ecosystems and integrate conservation concerns into park management.

² Category II Protected Area as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



1.6 THE PARK TODAY

The current state of Gatineau Park indicates that it contributes significantly to the health of all ecosystems in the National Capital Region. Gatineau Park is proof that sustainable coexistence is possible between nature, recreation, ecological processes within ecosystems, and urban life in the capital. The analysis of the current state and the consultations conducted suggest that the Master Plan should focus on the following themes:

ROLES OF THE PARK

- ▶ Gatineau Park continues to be the Capital’s conservation park. It is home to natural and cultural resources of national significance.
- ▶ Gatineau Park is an important feature of a green capital. It reflects the importance Canadians place on the environment. Visible from the heart of the Capital, the park enriches the experience of residents and visitors through its many cultural landscapes and the heritage and historic resources it contains.
- ▶ Gatineau Park offers a variety of outdoor recreational activities that respect its conservation mission for the Capital.
- ▶ With its proximity to the Capital Region’s urban core, the park makes an important contribution to the region’s economic development and the quality of life of residents.
- ▶ Gatineau Park’s ecosystems provide multiple ecological services to residents and visitors. These services include air quality enhancement, climate regulation, water filtration, carbon storage, and biodiversity-promoting habitat. These services provided by nature represent several millions of dollars per year.

TRENDS AND EVOLUTION

- ▶ Gatineau Park remains one of the most highly visited conservation parks in Canada.
- ▶ The regular emergence of new trends in recreation and the ever-growing number of visitors to Gatineau Park are putting significant pressure on the ecosystems.
- ▶ To conserve wildlife and plants over the long term, the links between the park and the surrounding natural environment must be conserved.
- ▶ Residential areas along the periphery of the park place pressure on the park (limitation of potential ecological links, creating of unofficial trails, increased traffic).

- ▶ The creation and use of unofficial trails exacerbates habitat fragmentation in Gatineau Park. This affects the quantity and quality of natural habitats necessary for the survival of the wildlife and plants that live there, including species at risk.
- ▶ Gatineau Park is experiencing a significant increase in extreme weather events such as high winds, freezing rain, floods, drought, and heavy rains. These have a major impact on its infrastructure (e.g. trails) and the NCC’s ability to respond in order to maintain the recreational offering.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

- ▶ The sustainability of Gatineau Park depends on environmental, social, and economic factors.
- ▶ There is a need to recognize the park’s significance to today’s Indigenous peoples and the cultural heritage derived from the various communities that have occupied the park’s territory.
- ▶ The programs offered to the public in Gatineau Park provide an opportunity to make a significant contribution to education and awareness, as well as to messaging on the code of conduct of users and conservation.
- ▶ Landscapes of significant cultural importance may be vulnerable to interventions in Gatineau Park.

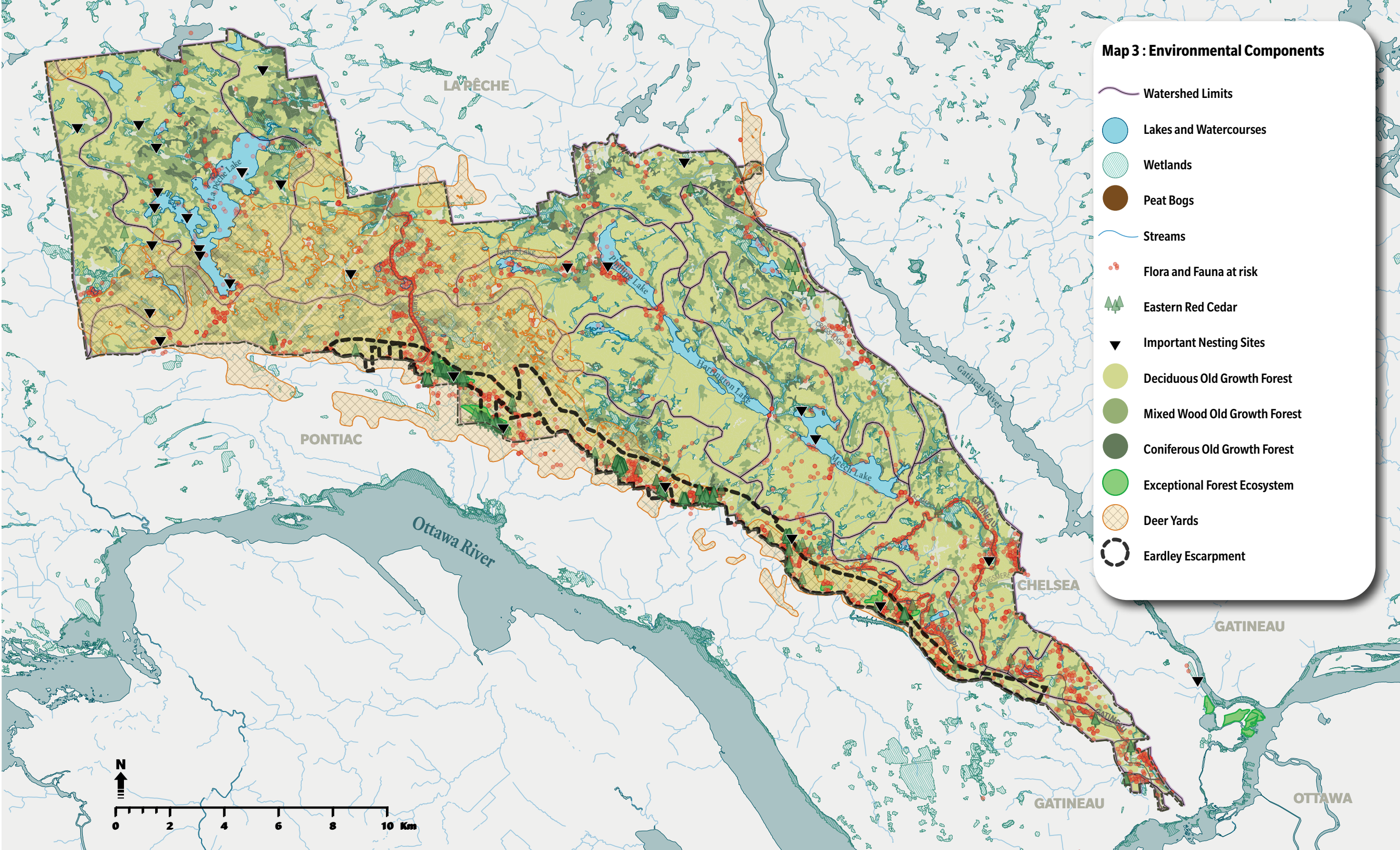
CHALLENGES REGARDING PARK USE

- ▶ Because public transit services are limited, the predominant mode of transportation used to access Gatineau Park remains the automobile. This creates an inequity in terms of public access. Traffic congestion puts a lot of pressure on the park at specific times and locations. This pressure is growing and is affecting experience quality, visitor safety, and the amount of greenhouse gases emitted.
- ▶ Many visitors do not respect Gatineau Park regulations, which has an impact on natural resource conservation and safety.
- ▶ Private properties within the park whose use and development do not take into account the site’s environmental context could have a significant negative impact on the park’s integrity.








- ▶ Camp Fortune is an intensive recreational activity area in Gatineau Park (aerial park, downhill skiing with lift; mountain biking, biathlon and shooting range). There are many new business demands for this sector.
- ▶ Currently, the high concentration of visitors in certain places and at certain times is problematic, and there are very few means of managing visitor numbers in Gatineau Park.
- ▶ The protection and management of Gatineau Park are carried out under the powers conferred by the *National Capital Act*. The public and park managers have expressed a desire to have more appropriate legal tools to manage the park as a conservation park.
- ▶ There is a growing demand for night and evening activities in Gatineau Park, which could affect nocturnal wildlife.

Map 3 : Environmental Components

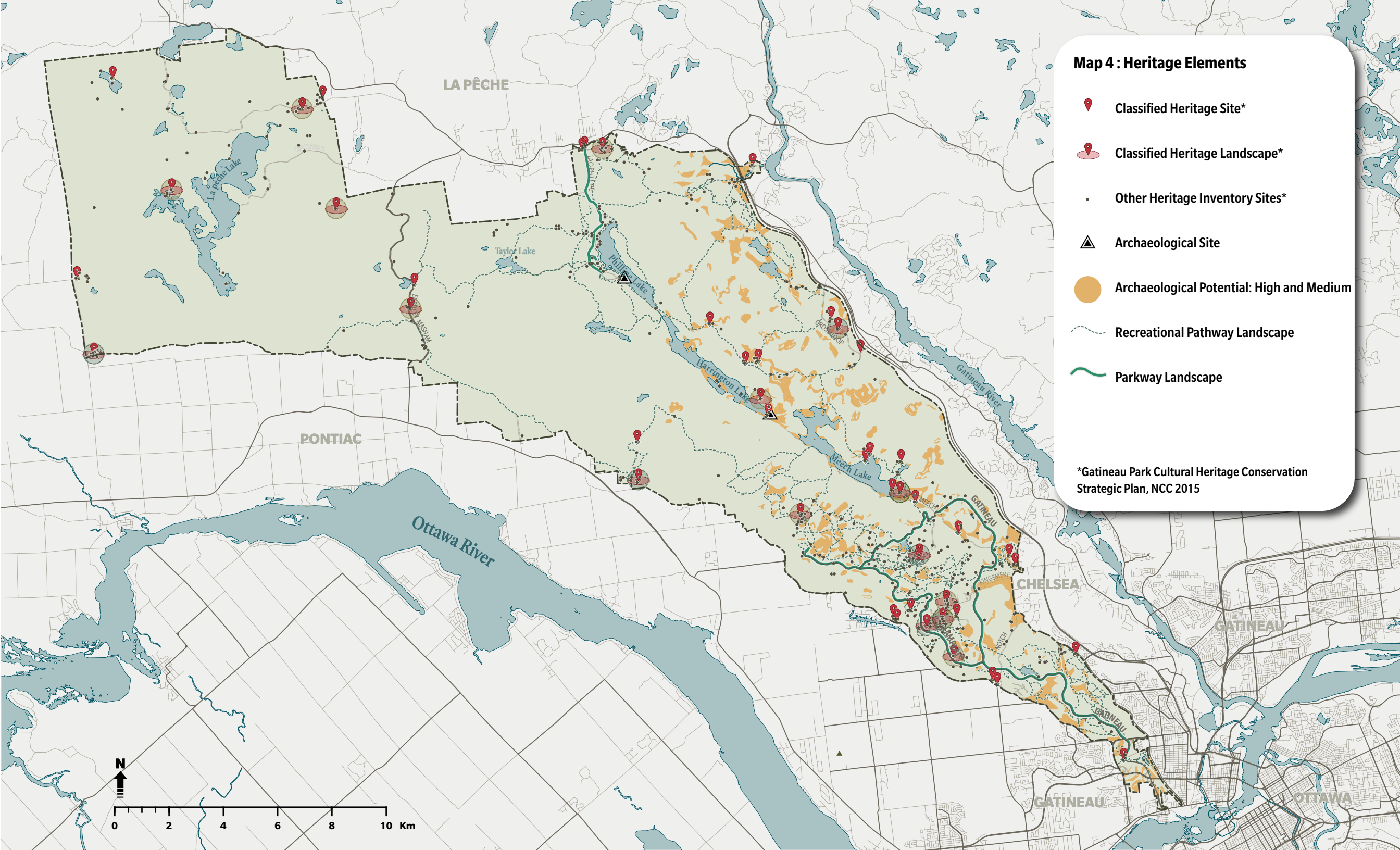
- Watershed Limits
- Lakes and Watercourses
- Wetlands
- Peat Bogs
- Streams
- Flora and Fauna at risk
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Important Nesting Sites
- Deciduous Old Growth Forest
- Mixed Wood Old Growth Forest
- Coniferous Old Growth Forest
- Exceptional Forest Ecosystem
- Deer Yards
- Eardley Escarpment



Map 4 : Heritage Elements

-  Classified Heritage Site*
-  Classified Heritage Landscape*
-  Other Heritage Inventory Sites*
-  Archaeological Site
-  Archaeological Potential: High and Medium
-  Recreational Pathway Landscape
-  Parkway Landscape

*Gatineau Park Cultural Heritage Conservation Strategic Plan, NCC 2015



1.7 PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Public consultation is the cornerstone of all NCC planning. The four-step development of the Gatineau Park Master Plan was therefore based on this approach from the beginning of the project. Five consultation workshops were held:

Step 1 – Fall 2017	Existing Conditions and Thoughts on the Park’s Future
Step 2 – Spring 2018	Vision and Strategic Directions
Step 3 – Winter 2019	Planning Concept, Strategic Directions, Land Use Designations, and General Policies
Step 3 – Spring 2019	Specific Policies
Step 4 – Fall 2020	Final Plan

During the review of the Gatineau Park Master Plan, the NCC consulted with the public, external stakeholders (municipal, provincial and federal representatives, and elected officials), the Public Advisory Committee and its own staff.

The NCC also met with representatives of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation on a number of occasions. These discussions helped to better understand the importance of this territory to this community. They also helped to provide a better understanding of how to improve cultural exchanges with the First Nation, including its participation in park activities and operations, and how to showcase its culture.

The 2020 Master Plan incorporates the results of recent studies and reports. The NCC also held a forum, inviting the public to listen to experts from various parts of North America. In total, more than xxx participants helped shape the plan.

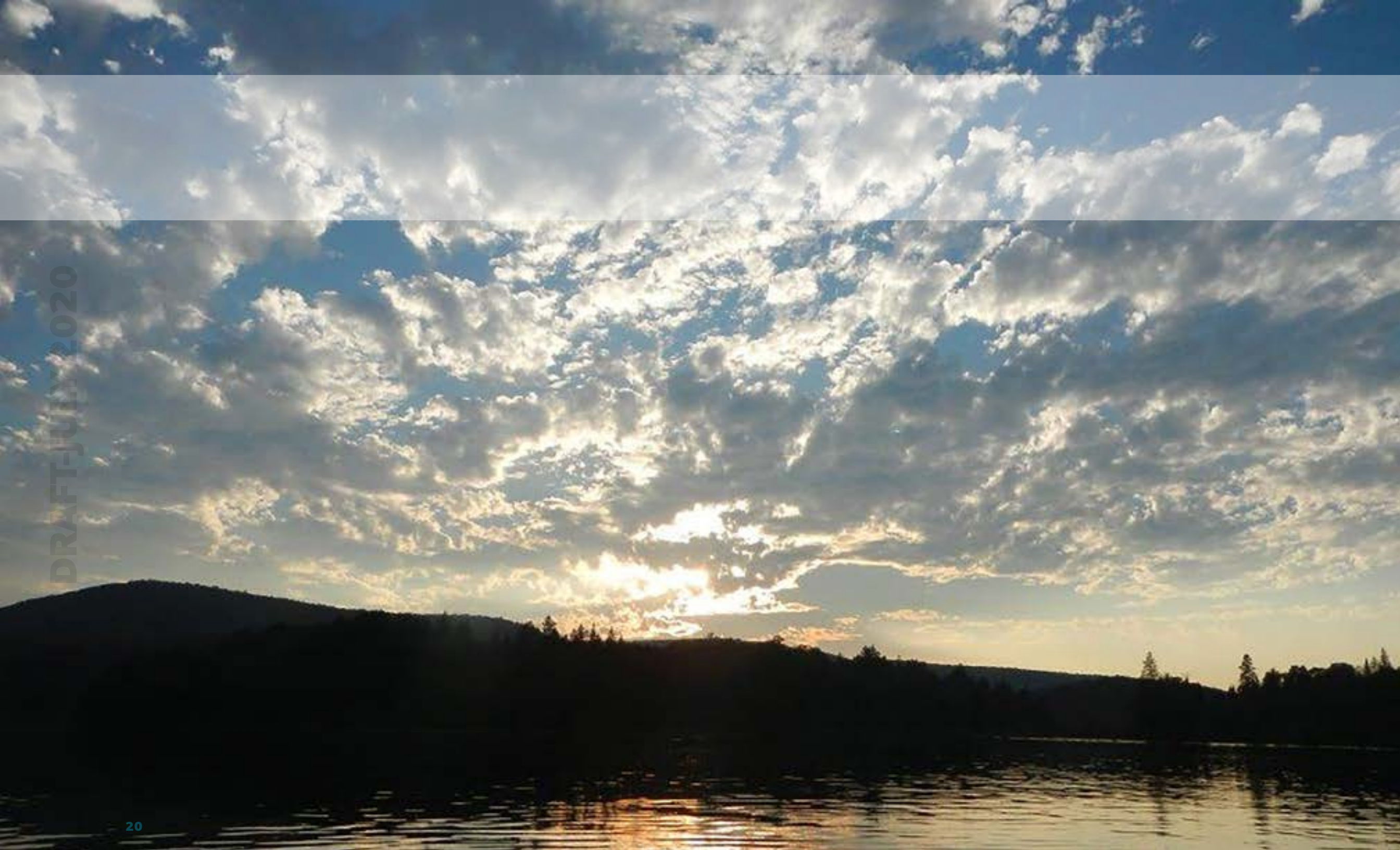
The 2020 plan presents a long-term vision with strategic orientations to achieve it. It is an essential and effective tool in supporting decision-making and park management. In addition to collaborative planning, it is based on research and various preliminary studies. The NCC drew on this information to identify best practices and innovative ways to conserve, enhance and restore the park.

WHAT WE’VE HEARD...

Drawing upon public comments, the following statements summarize the key public expectations for the park.

- ▶ Protect the park and its ecosystems.
- ▶ Limit urban development in and around the park.
- ▶ Improve accessibility to reduce vehicle traffic within the park.
- ▶ Ensure the park’s educational role.
- ▶ Ensure access to the park for all to enjoy.
- ▶ Ensure the balance between recreation and sustainability.
- ▶ Seek legal protections.
- ▶ Improve control over residential use.

A consultation report prepared by the NCC presenting the results in a more comprehensive manner is also available on the website.



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2 Vision

VISION STATEMENT

Gatineau Park is an exceptional natural environment that we need to protect for future generations so that they too can enjoy its precious contribution to nature, recreation, culture, and history.

DESCRIPTION OF THE VISION STATEMENT

Located in the heart of Canada's Capital, Gatineau Park is first and foremost a place for the conservation of natural environments. It is home to a variety of rare and at-risk species as well as several natural habitats. The park is called upon to continue its contribution to the sustainability and quality of life of residents and their beloved Capital.

The park and its natural and cultural treasures will be protected as a living legacy for future generations. It will remain a symbol of Canada's commitment to protecting the environment. The natural systems will remain dynamic and integral to the larger ecosystem comprised of the ecological diversity present in the Canadian Capital landscape. The protection of wildlife and plants is the park's main objective. It will make a vital contribution to the resilience of the National Capital Region.

Through their invaluable contribution to the health and well-being of visitors, outdoor recreation and learning activities will respect the park's ecological, cultural, heritage and environmental integrity. Throughout the park, cultural landscapes and heritage buildings will invite visitors to engage in discovery. The history, traditions and culture of the Anishinabeg people will be an integral part of the park.

The park will function as a natural laboratory for scientific research and learning. The national symbolic scope of the park is reinforced by the presence of official residences.

Access will be more equitable and focus on sustainability in harmony with natural, cultural, and landscape features. Various forms of public and active transportation will promote sustainable access to the park.

Stewardship of the park will continue to be a shared responsibility through the collaboration and active participation of residents, community groups, and visitors. Together with its municipal, regional, provincial, and federal partners, the NCC will work to protect the park's assets and intrinsic values. Private landowners and commercial tenants will contribute to the collective effort to protect the park.

DRAFT-JULY 2020



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2.1 INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

The park offers beautiful scenery and a wide range of experiences to visitors who visit and enjoy it. During walks and outdoor activities, they can enjoy this rich nature in a variety of ways. René Tenasco provides his testimony from an Indigenous perspective. Geopoets have also expressed what they have felt through the five senses in a unique and rich way. There are excerpts from these stories throughout the plan. The NCC thanks the participating authors.

Akī Pimādziwin (The Land and its Health)

There are many teachings in the Anishinabeg culture that express values and disciplines when we speak on the importance of nature.

In the Creation Story of the Anishinabeg, long before the first human being was to put their footprints and walk on the soils of the earth, the whole of nature was created. There are many legends that speak to the wonders of the wilderness, the animals, the waters, and the air. From the ground to the marshes, valleys and mountain tops, birth was given in abundance. It was an era of time in the history of nature where everything interacted with the instruction of laws within a bundle that would become the Covenant of the Land.

Our legends speak to the timelines of the earth’s history where there is an understanding of nature’s language because everything that was created was given a living spirit that functioned in obedience within established territories across this land. There was diversity of all kinds, but everything remained in natural balance and clean throughout the lifespan of nature’s existence. There was death, rebirth, and continual growth in the design of Nature’s way to care for herself and to provide change and stability in the responsibility to foresee its life without danger of a threat to destroy itself. Although challenging, the earth has carried its covenant of laws to the present day.

In the Anishinabeg history, we are schooled to a world view when both nature and the human spoke the same language. We are told of a time when Nature in all its being educated the human how to live, develop a lifestyle and carry codes of conduct in serving their livelihood with common sense and strong moral values within the environment that he lived within. Our legend speaks to a life of peace and tranquility in the harmonization of instructions gifted by vision of the Creator.

To this day, regardless of what history has presented itself in the making of civilization, we still hold to the reality of Anishinabe naturalized knowledge systems and could be used in the healing of Nature’s fight for survival. The challenge is the willingness to welcome change for all people to take up the will to repair and reconcile the harm that was done and continues to be needlessly exercised towards our natural environment.

The term ‘sustainable development’ should not be used lightly. We are all part of humankind with the capacity in our nature to understand what must be in a rightful way envisioned for the survival of the environment we live in.

We must hold to the reality that it wasn’t Nature that had to go to the human to survive. It was the human who had to go to Nature to survive. In this way, Gatineau Park becomes a living model.

Megwetch, Thank you

Ashkabewis

René Tenasco



3 Goals and Strategic Directions

PREMISES

The planning and management of Gatineau Park is based on the following basic premises. These premises form the basis of the master plan.

- ▶ Gatineau Park is a welcoming place that plays an important role in providing recreational opportunities for visitors.
- ▶ Gatineau Park's ecological resources are limited – it can't be everything to everyone. The human activities that take place in the park are managed to protect and maintain the ecological value of the natural environment for a long time, while promoting an appreciation of nature.
- ▶ Protecting Gatineau Park is a shared responsibility that requires active land management and collaboration with all levels of government, including municipalities, community groups, business partners, residents, and visitors.
- ▶ Decision-making regarding Gatineau Park is open, transparent, and based on science and evidence.
- ▶ Gatineau Park is federal public land. This park is therefore subject to federal legislation. Compliance with these laws is paramount in the NCC's decisions regarding its use and management.

The goals and strategic directions outlined in this chapter form the basis of the planning concept that will guide long-term park planning and management.

Each of the four key goals of the Master Plan is structured around a brief description with strategic directions, which will guide the actions to achieve the vision outlined in the Master Plan.



DRAFT - JULY 2020





3.1 CONSERVING NATURE AND CULTURE

Conserving the healthy ecosystems and the cultural heritage of Gatineau Park, so that people can connect with a healthy environment and support the sustainability of the ecological services it provides, and promoting resilience in the face of climate change and highlighting features that demonstrate its role in the region.

Gatineau Park is a vast natural environment for wildlife and plants. It is unique in that it is situated in the heart of the National Capital Region. It is therefore close to residents, who benefit from its presence for their well-being. The natural systems within the park, and its adjoining areas provide many services including air and water purification, the regulation of micro-climates and rainwater runoff, and natural control of pests via predation.

It is important to protect the park as a whole because its entire territory is home to ecosystems and habitats that are important to wildlife and plants, including native species. There are exceptional forests, including groves of Virginia Cedar and Red Oak. The park is also an excellent natural laboratory for scientific research, producing results that are useful to the scientific community and that support park management decisions.

Visitors must enjoy the park in an environmentally-friendly manner. The footprint associated with recreational activities must be reviewed to maintain visitor numbers while limiting the impact of human presence. As is the case with Canada’s national parks, the park as a whole is managed within a perspective of conservation, as required by the category II classification by the International Union for Conservation of Nature¹ granted to the park in the Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017-2067.

¹ IUCN Category II, National Park: “Large natural or near natural areas set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area, which also provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities.”

Despite its vast territory, Gatineau Park remains a small conservation park compared to neighbouring provincial and federal parks in Quebec and Ontario. It is therefore essential to protect the natural connections that connect it to the vast natural spaces that surround it. Ecological corridors that facilitate the movement of species and are particularly important in the context of climate change. Innovative ways will need to be found to maintain ecological connectivity to surrounding lands, which are under municipal and regional (RCM) jurisdiction. These approaches will need to be developed in collaboration with regional partners, landowners, and conservation organizations interested in the long-term protection of natural heritage.

In addition, several archaeological sites testify to past land occupation and tell the stories of the communities that lived where the park is today. Developing a better understanding of the archaeological potential of sites and protecting heritage buildings and other tangible and intangible assets is essential to maintaining meaningful contact with the past.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Ensure the protection of ecosystems, natural processes, species at risk, and their habitat.
2. Maintain Gatineau Park’s ecological links to the other natural areas in the region.
3. Reduce the fragmentation of ecosystems and habitats in Gatineau Park.
4. Protect Gatineau Park’s native biodiversity and reduce the impact of invasive species on its ecosystems and habitats.
5. Protect the heritage assets and archaeological resources of Gatineau Park.
6. Reduce the impact of infrastructure on the ecological integrity of Gatineau Park.







3.2 OFFER EXPERIENCES IN NATURE

Offer a variety of outdoor recreation and experiences that are in line with Gatineau Park’s conservation priorities.

Gatineau Park offers recreational activities that respect its mandate as the Capital’s conservation park. A symbol of a green capital, the park is a popular recreation area for residents and visitors alike. It is an integral part of the region’s quality of life.

The increase in the number of visitors and the regular emergence of new recreational trends require the NCC to evaluate their impact and consequently their acceptability to the park and its ecosystems.

The park has to offer everyone a chance to practice outdoor activities that contribute to their health and well-being while appreciating the region’s nature, culture, and history and learning about them.

Ultimately, achieving conservation goals while providing quality recreational experiences requires ensuring the right activities in the right places at the right times.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Provide environmentally-friendly outdoor recreation experiences that minimize the ecological footprint while contributing to Gatineau Park’s conservation objectives.
2. Manage the number of visitors and direct traffic flow to offer the right activity in the right place at the right time.
3. Provide places for contemplation and well-being, as well as places suitable for outdoor activities, including sports.
4. Enhance knowledge of nature and present history and culture through educational and interpretive activities.
5. Promote the friendly sharing of recreational infrastructure among users.
6. Promote recreational sites occurring outside of Gatineau Park, where outdoor activities can be offered that are not suitable or that are over-represented in the park.

DRAFT - JULY 2020





3.3 PROMOTE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

Provide a quality experience and promote a healthy environment, by promoting sustainable transportation and equitable access to Gatineau Park and its activity nodes.

Transportation and traffic in Gatineau Park are linked to many other objectives. A key objective is to support a range of appropriate transportation options to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy the park while respecting the environment.

Visitors can access the park from various locations. They do this through a network of recreational trails, local roads, and parkways that lead to a wide range of activities. From this network, panoramic parkways offer them a multimodal experience in an attractive setting. At various access points, visitor reception areas provide information, making their visit more enjoyable.

Access to and movements within the park should become less and less dependent on cars and rely more on more efficient means of transportation with less impact on natural ecosystems. Such an approach will enhance the overall visitor experience.

Parking lot improvements, in addition to measures to encourage the adoption of alternative modes of transportation, will be limited to parking areas on the periphery of the park or just inside its boundaries.

Besides vehicle access, entry points all around the park encourage active mobility by connecting surrounding neighbourhoods to the network of official trails. Providing incentives for adopting active means of mobility will also encourage visitors to enjoy the park in different ways.

Access to activity sites could become more enjoyable, sustainable, and equitable by introducing alternative, convenient, and affordable transportation services. Such services could also help visitors of different age and income groups as well as those without access to a motor vehicle or with special accessibility needs to enjoy the park.

The popularity of the park has led to an increase in motor vehicles on its territory, and this has had an impact. Measures should be considered to progressively reduce the impact of transportation on the visitor experience as well as on the environment (e.g. mitigation of potential impact on wildlife, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of potential conflicts between users of various modes of transportation on the parkway and other roads in the park).

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Manage transportation to Gatineau Park and its activity sites to foster a quality experience for all visitors.
2. Reduce the impact of motor vehicles on the environment and visitor experience, including during busy periods.
3. Gradually reduce reliance on motor vehicles by improving access to Gatineau Park by other means, including active means of transportation.
4. Allow more people to experience nature in Gatineau Park, regardless of their mobility or financial situation.
5. Provide visitor reception services.







3.4 FOSTER ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Create a sense of belonging and shared responsibility with respect to Gatineau Park and foster engagement to protect the park.

Gatineau Park is a place engenders many positive associations. Given its location, it is important for Gatineau Park to be successfully integrated with the surrounding region at many levels, including access, ecosystem conservation, provision of ecological services, economic growth, tourism and recreation, scientific research and heritage. The park brings a variety of benefits to the community and contributes to the region's growth. Furthermore, implementation of the Master Plan requires local support.

Collaboration among organizations, visitor engagement and partnership building are all critical to achieving the master plan's objectives. To address budget limitations and ensure public engagement in the park's objectives, openness to shared management approaches will be required. By understanding the park's importance, community groups, residents and visitors will help manage its natural and cultural assets. They will protect the special features that attract them to the park and will help ensure that everyone can benefit from them. In addition, the NCC will continue to work with Indigenous communities in the region to highlight the meaning of this land for these communities and to contribute to cultural exchanges.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Promote the importance of Gatineau Park to the region.
2. Adopt open communication with visitors, organizations and the general public.
3. Collaborate with Indigenous communities on programs that integrate their knowledge of nature and science into the protection and management of Gatineau Park.
4. Work with municipal, provincial and community partners as well as public transport authorities to achieve the shared goals of nature conservation, quality of life, access and regional prosperity.
5. Work together to fund the protection of the park and maintain its recreational offer.
6. Engage and collaborate with regional partners and visitors to deliver a quality experience using sustainable infrastructure (e.g. volunteering to maintain trails, working together to create a code of conduct and complying with regulations).

DRAFT - JULY 2020





4 Planning Concept

This planning concept proposes changes in response to certain park situations, but also the maintenance of conditions currently observed. It does not necessarily involve transformations throughout.

DEFINITION

The planning concept for Gatineau Park is a graphical representation of the long-term vision for the park (“where we want to go”).

It illustrates the key ideas that will guide the park’s planning and management over the next 50 years. Through a simple image, it shows in a concrete way how goals and objectives will be achieved on the ground and breaks down in a comprehensive and coherent manner the actions and strategies resulting from the vision in the park.

4.1 ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY

Gatineau Park is the Capital’s conservation park. Gatineau Park is home to a large concentration of wildlife and plant species, including many species at risk. Protecting its entire territory is therefore necessary, and in order to do so, its ecological connectivity must be ensured. This dual responsibility is a collective one.

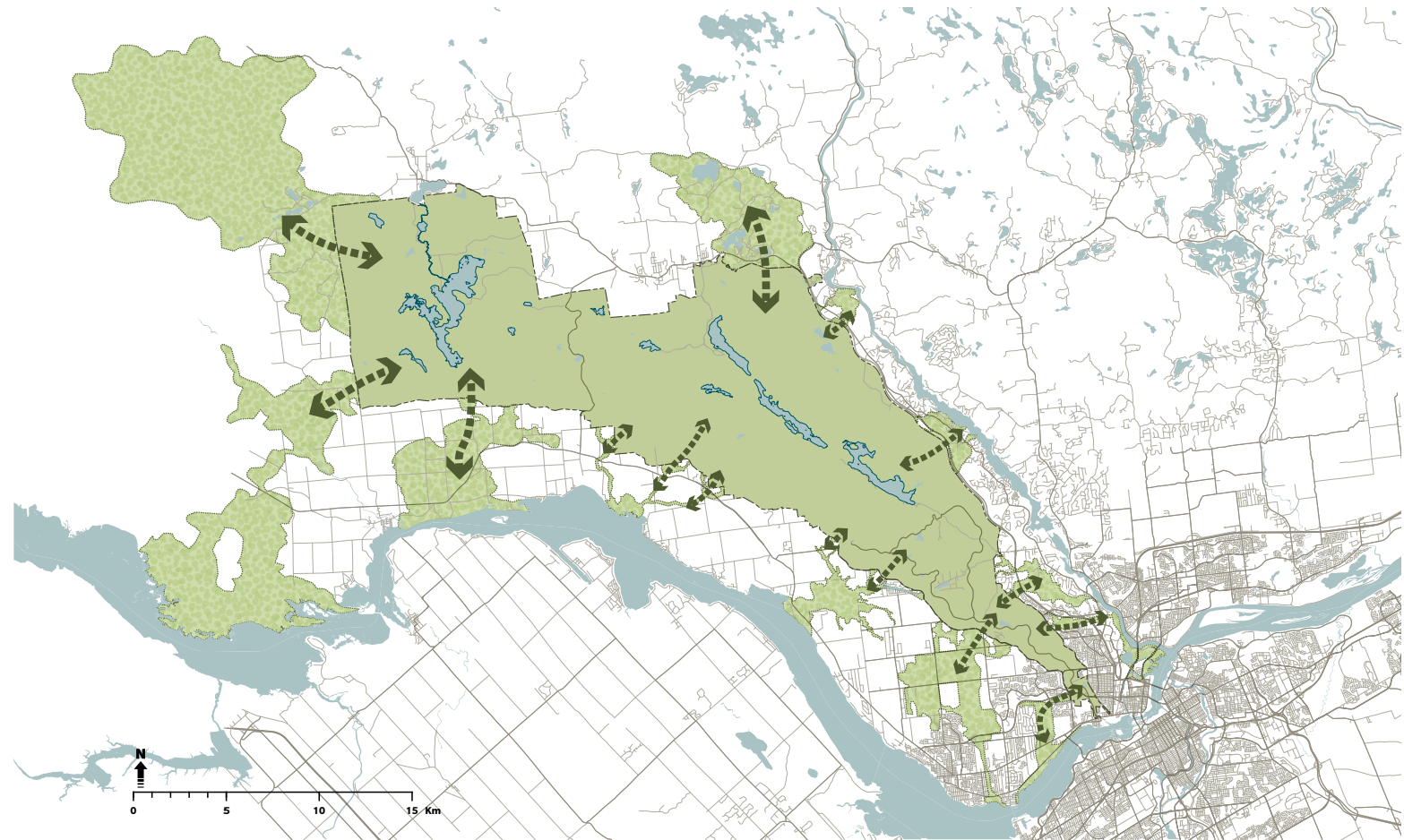
Ecological connectivity is a key component of the planning concept. It is fundamental to maintaining ecosystem health and promotes a rich biodiversity by enabling species to circulate and adapt to changes. It is a central part of the planning concept, both in terms of the links outside the park and free movements of natural species within its limits.

EXTERNAL CONNECTIVITY: ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Gatineau Park is part of a network of natural environments and regional, provincial and national parks. Between the park and adjacent natural environments are corridors, often forested, that act as ecological corridors, connecting the park to these environments. These ecological corridors allow species to move around in order to meet their needs. In the context of climate change, they are particularly important for species migration.

This network of ecological corridors ensures the sustainability of fauna, flora, and ecological functions on a regional scale by facilitating functions such as feeding, dispersal, reproduction, and access to shelters. It also facilitates essential processes such as nutrient flow, genetic exchanges and movement.

A characterization study conducted in 2012¹ revealed 13 ecological corridors:



Map 5 – Location of Potential Ecological Corridors Adjacent to Gatineau Park²

Map 5 : External Connectivity



Ecological corridor



Ecological link

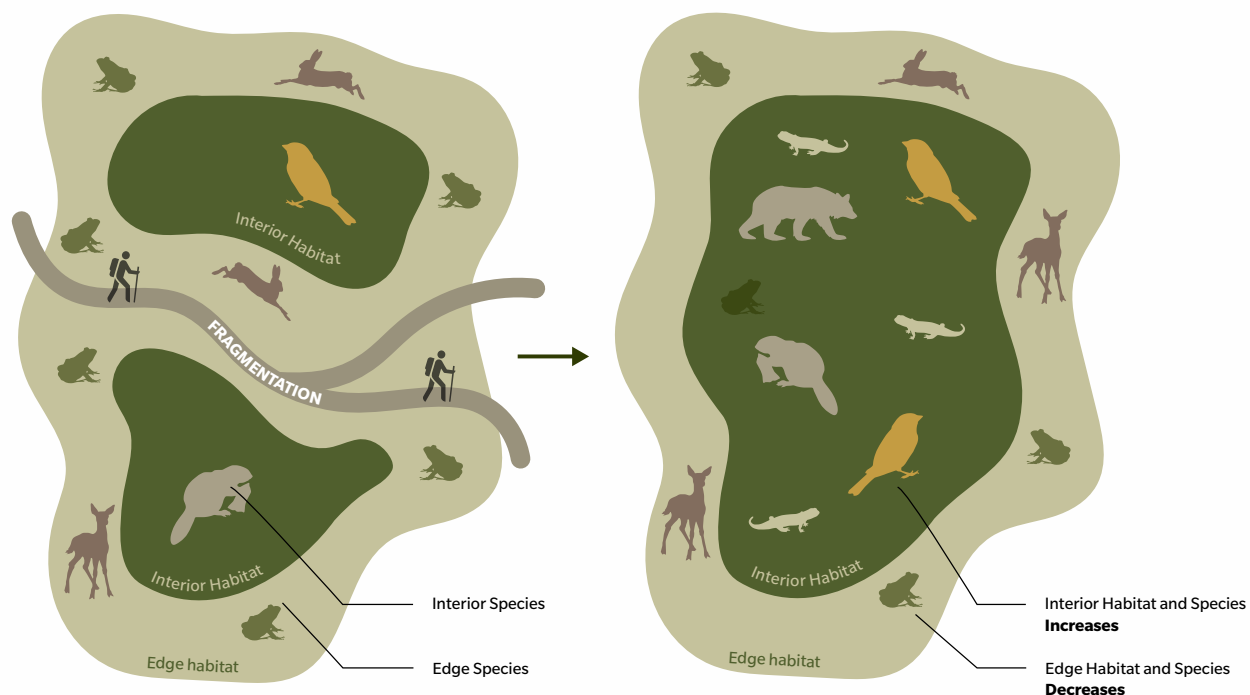
¹ Del Degan, Massé and Associates. Identification and Characterization of Ecological Corridors Adjacent to Gatineau Park, study report prepared for the National Capital Commission, October 2012

² Del Degan, Massé and Associates, 2012

INTERNAL CONNECTIVITY: DEFRAGMENTATION OF PARK HABITATS

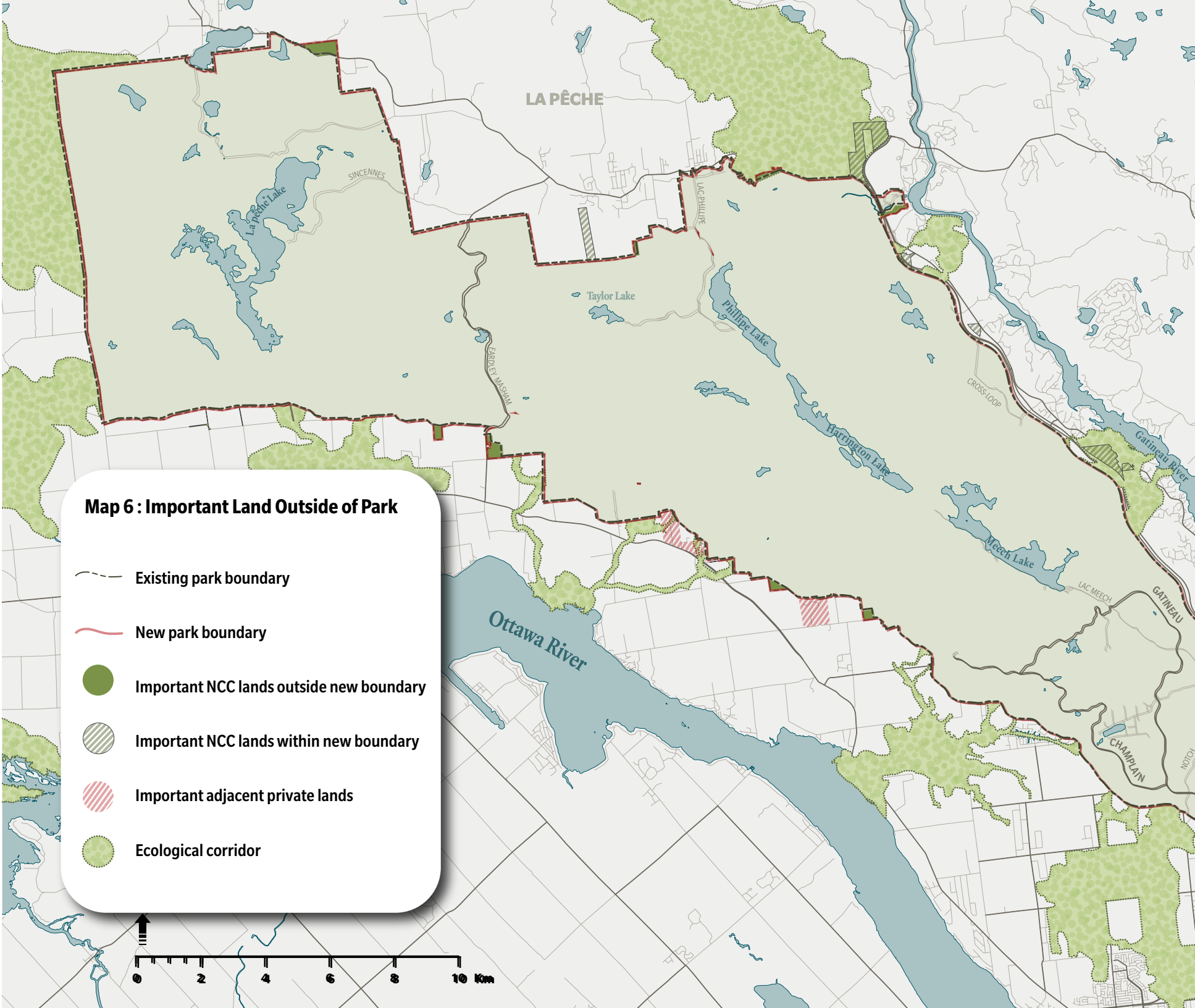
Internal connectivity within Gatineau Park is essential to creating and maintaining the habitats of the diverse species that make up its ecosystems. The size of continuous natural spaces has an impact on the size of habitats and, by extension, the types of species likely to live in the park. The larger the continuous natural spaces, the better the chances of conserving biodiversity through genetic exchange. It is also more likely that the park will be home to species that are at the top of the food chain, as these species are essential to balanced ecosystems.

Fragmentation of natural spaces by road and recreational infrastructure reduces habitat size. It places pressure on species that need vast territories to survive. The defragmentation of natural spaces therefore appears necessary to conserve a greater variety of species. The use of Gatineau Park must take these realities into account in order to preserve the quality of this natural environment and ensure that the public can continue to enjoy it into the future.



EFFECT OF HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

- Reduction of quality habitats;
- Reduction in habitat size;
- Introduction of invasive species;
- Barrier to movement;
- Risk of wildlife collisions;
- Increased prey exposure to predators;
- Disturbance of sensitive animals;
- Easy access for prohibited activities (e.g., poaching);
- Safety issues related to unmapped trails.



Map 6 : Important Land Outside of Park

- Existing park boundary
- New park boundary
- Important NCC lands outside new boundary
- Important NCC lands within new boundary
- Important adjacent private lands
- Ecological corridor

4.2 IMPORTANT LANDS OUTSIDE THE PARK

Several properties outside Gatineau Park contribute to the quality of its environment or provide access to areas for outdoor activities. Many of these lands are owned by the NCC and some of them are within the ecological corridors.

The park boundaries will be adjusted to include adjacent lands owned by the NCC that have added value (environmental or strategic). In addition, a few private properties used informally to get to places of activity have been identified as essential. An official access could be provided on one of them.

Ecological corridors are essential to the environmental quality of the park and the region. However, they will remain outside the boundaries of the park.

4.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING CONCEPT

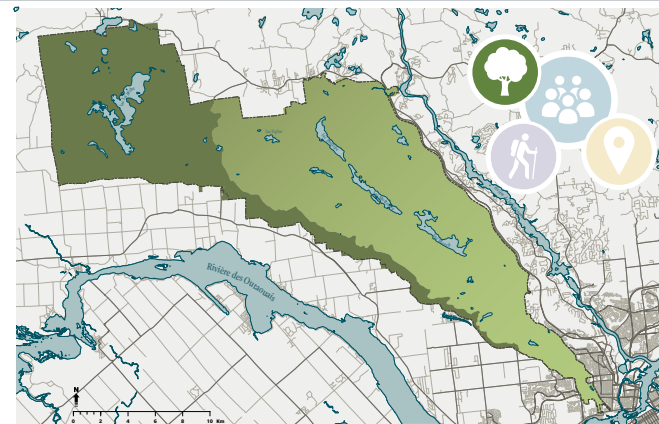
The central theme of the Master Plan is to sustainably maintain and protect Gatineau Park's natural environment by conserving its habitats and limiting their fragmentation. It aims to maintain biodiversity and the park's ecological benefits for the region, as well as provide a place to connect with nature through environmentally-friendly outdoor activities.

The park's planning concept therefore clarifies how the distribution of areas for outdoor activities can conserve and improve the park's internal and external ecological connectivity.

Proximity to nature and outdoor activities contributes to the well-being of residents and visitors. It makes them aware of the importance of a quality environment and makes them want to conserve natural spaces.

The planning concept supports the implementation of the vision and the four goals outlined in the previous chapters. The first three goals focus on **conservation**, experiences **in nature** and **equitable** access. They relate to the territory. The fourth goal, which is **engagement and collaboration**, is cross-cutting, i.e. it supports the first three by engaging everyone to ensure the park's longevity.

CONSERVATION



The park is, first and foremost, a place for conserving natural environments. The purpose of the planning concept is to conserve biodiversity, ecosystems, and natural processes.

In all areas of the park, the number of unofficial trails will be reduced. This will be done to protect sensitive habitats and increase the quantity and quality of habitats. Environmentally-friendly outdoor activities will be allowed where there is the least environmental impact. The degree of conservation will therefore gradually increase as you move away from the Capital's urban area.

In the planning concept, great importance is placed on the La Pêche Lake and Eardley Escarpment ecosystems. These ecosystems, where natural processes occur, contain many sensitive habitats, species at risk and unique environments to be protected.

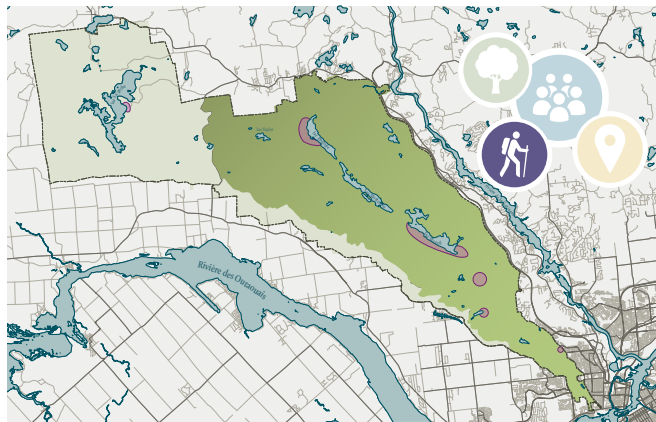
The Eardley Escarpment is the richest and most fragile ecosystem in Gatineau Park. Its southern exposure gives it a hot and dry microclimate. There are several species at risk there along with rare plants that normally occur in the U.S. Midwest.

The La Pêche Lake ecosystem and adjacent environments together form a sufficiently-large natural space to accommodate large predators and species that avoid humans. Due to the area's low level of fragmentation and rich biodiversity as well as the presence of certain plant communities that are scarce in the rest of the park, the area is attractive to species with large home ranges.

The ecological corridors adjacent to Gatineau Park are also part of the planning concept. They form about a dozen corridors that follow mostly waterways and woodlands, connecting the park's ecosystems and regional natural environments.

In addition, a number of tangible and intangible cultural resources are distributed throughout the park. In areas that are not dedicated to the integral conservation of the environment, the enhancement of heritage buildings, artifacts, cultural landscapes, ruins and stories will bring a whole new dimension to the park.

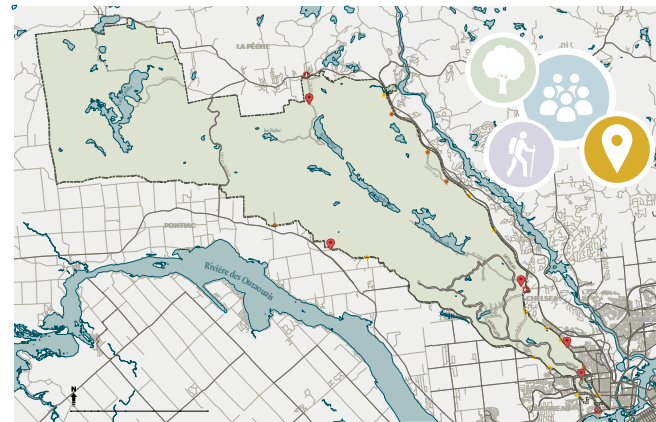
EXPERIENCES IN NATURE



The planning concept is based on collaborative, responsible, and environmentally-friendly recreation. It also aims to provide a recreational experience in nature by distributing activities according to the areas that can best accommodate them. Outdoor recreation sites are distributed to have a higher density of activity near the urban centre of the area, southeast of the park. This density gradually decreases as you move towards the conservation area to the northwest. The structured activity hubs at Camp Fortune and around Philippe and Meech Lakes will continue to support a variety of outdoor recreation activities requiring specific facilities, and the trail network will be reviewed to limit habitat fragmentation.

No activities are permitted in the La Pêche Lake area and the Eardley Escarpment, which are dedicated to conservation. The exception is the beach area, the La Pêche Lake canoe-camping sites, and some very targeted areas of the escarpment, where there are rock climbing sites and a few trails offering panoramic views.

EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS



The concept also focuses on the search for means of sustainable transportation to and within the park. Movements will take place more and more using means of transportation other than cars, that can be organized at the visitor reception areas and at the main and secondary entrances.

Access to the trail system and key park amenities will be facilitated, while ensuring environmental sustainability around recreational sites. Existing roads and trails that provide access to the activity sites will be maintained and new roads that cause habitat fragmentation will not be permitted. Access points throughout the park's periphery already lead to the trail network without the need to drive through the park. In addition, connecting municipal and regional trails to the trail system will promote access to the park through active transportation.

In addition, adequate infrastructure in strategic locations will facilitate access for people with reduced mobility so that everyone can enjoy nature.

Five visitor reception areas will serve as information centres. These include the primary one in Chelsea, Lac Philippe and the Relais Plein Air, as well as the one south of the Gatineau Parkway, along with a new visitor reception area west of the park in the Luskville area. In season, the La Pêche Lake facilities will provide more cursory reception services.

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION



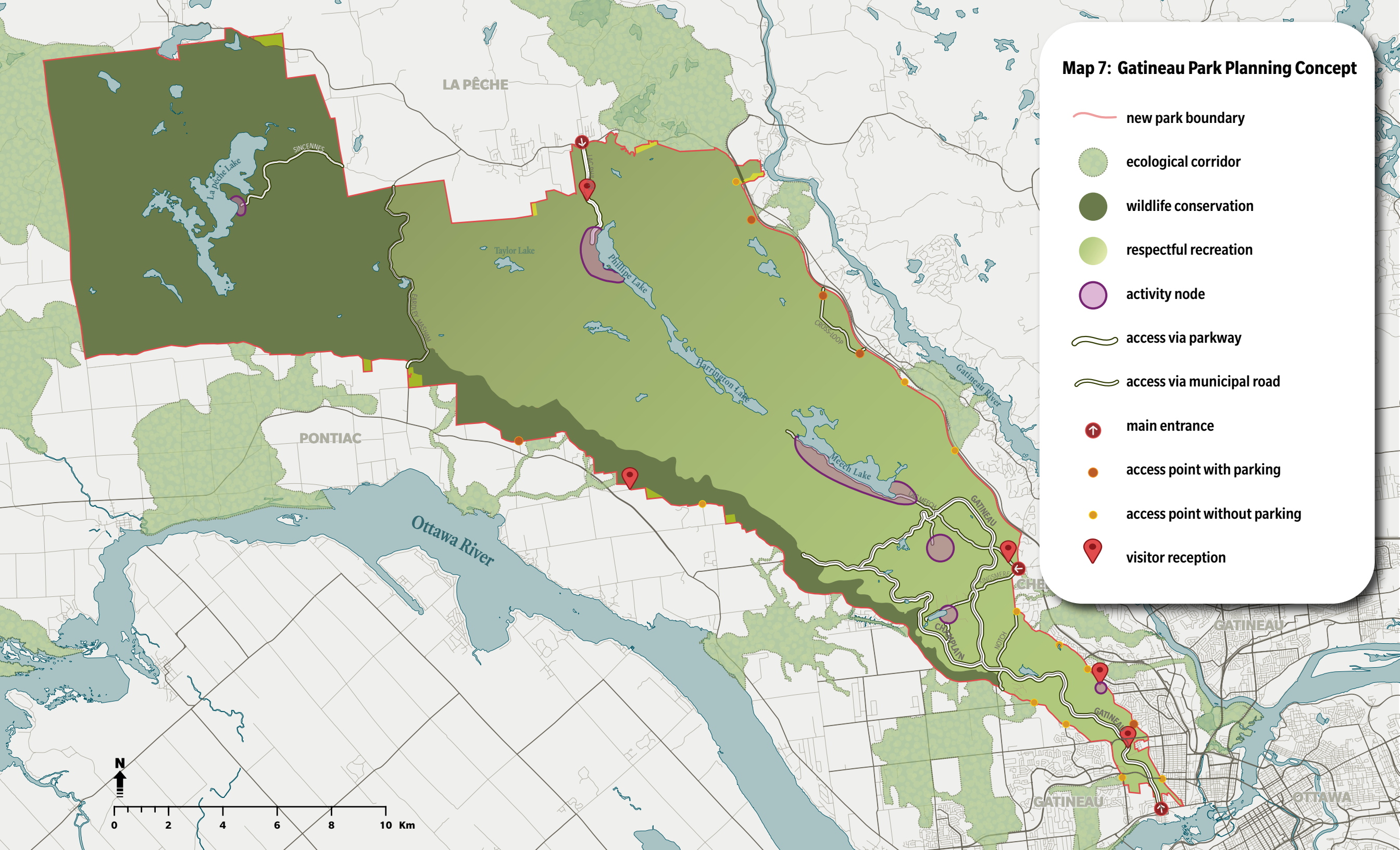
While these efforts are led by the NCC, the support and commitment of many stakeholders are needed to achieve the above and benefit future generations of Gatineau Park.

Collaboration between organizations and visitor engagement are key to achieving the objectives of this Master Plan. Protecting park resources is a shared responsibility, based on active land management and collaboration with all levels of government, including municipalities, non-profit organizations, business partners, community groups, residents and visitors. By working together, the NCC and its partners will help protect the park's intrinsic values. In doing so, they will instil the shared values of nature conservation, quality of life and regional prosperity.

Maintaining the network of trails to foster the discovery of natural areas, while limiting the impact on habitats, will require user collaboration and a shared management approach. It will be essential to establish partnerships with other organizations interested in maintaining the natural heritage network and with property owners in the identified sectors. Innovative approaches will be required to ensure the long-term protection of the natural heritage.

Map 7: Gatineau Park Planning Concept

-  new park boundary
-  ecological corridor
-  wildlife conservation
-  respectful recreation
-  activity node
-  access via parkway
-  access via municipal road
-  main entrance
-  access point with parking
-  access point without parking
-  visitor reception



A scenic view of a waterfall cascading over dark rocks, with a stone building and a bridge in the background.

5 General Policies

The policy statements in the Gatineau Park Master Plan guide land management and support the review of proposals and initiatives requiring federal approval. These policies generally apply to all park lands managed by the NCC and support the implementation of the vision and strategic orientations set out in the Master Plan.



5.1 CONSERVING NATURE AND CULTURE

Gatineau Park is the largest natural space in the National Capital Region. It is vital to protect the entire park because it is home to important ecosystems and habitats, namely for species at risk protected by law. The Master Plan proposes innovative ways to ensure the long-term protection of this natural and cultural heritage.

DRAFT-JULY 2020



5.1.1 ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

The conservation of habitats and ecosystems is essential to the health of Gatineau Park. As a steward of federal lands, the NCC has an obligation to protect habitats and species protected under the law. In order to conserve its biodiversity, a conservation park must provide quality, undisturbed habitats.

- A. Manage the park as a “category II protected area” as defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- B. Conserve ecosystems, native biodiversity, habitats and natural processes throughout Gatineau Park, as long as it does not harm public safety or cause infrastructure damage.
- C. Conserve species at risk and their habitat in compliance with all applicable federal legislation.
- D. Identify and apply mitigation measures to protect the environment when planning projects.
- E. Reduce natural habitat fragmentation and restore affected areas.

- F. Apply best practices for rainwater management to reduce impacts on water quality and quantity.
- G. Reduce the presence and proliferation of invasive species and restore ecosystems and habitats affected by their presence.
- H. Use native and diverse species in planting programs to increase the resilience of the natural environments.
- I. Continue to collect data and track indicators regarding traffic and the state of the park’s health, namely by observing infrastructure density and natural landscape dissection.

5.1.2 MANAGING THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Gatineau Park will continue to offer outdoor recreational experiences through its facilities and network of official trails. To avoid habitat loss, the overall ecological impact of infrastructure and recreational areas cannot be increased in the future, and the fragmentation created by trails will be reduced.

- A. Improve internal ecological connectivity by closing unofficial trails identified through the Responsible Trail Management Project.
- B. Limit territory fragmentation by limiting the total number of trail kilometres to the number set out in the Responsible Trail Management Project (Map 8 – Land Use Designations, Chapter 6).
- C. Do not increase the overall ecological impact of the infrastructure unless its construction occurs in visitor reception areas, as part of a sustainable transportation strategy improving access to the park or for the purpose of improving the overall quality of the environment in the park.

- D. Allow trails to be relocated to minimize environmental impacts.
- E. Allow for the expansion of existing buildings and the addition of complementary infrastructure for permitted recreational activities (relays, washrooms, shelters, tables, benches) if this infrastructure enhances visitor experience and the new footprint does not significantly increase habitat loss or fragmentation; or if this loss or fragmentation can be compensated.
- F. Ensure the proper maintenance of infrastructure to reduce the environmental impact of human activities.

**5.1.3 MANAGING THE ECOLOGICAL
IMPACT OF NON-RECREATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Gatineau Park is a place for nature conservation and outdoor recreation. It is therefore necessary to minimize the impact of the infrastructure that serves surrounding urban areas. In particular, it is agreed that there may be areas within a conservation park that are not covered by telecommunication networks. That is currently the case for 30% to 40% of the park, in the northwest section, in the full conservation area.

- A. Concentrate infrastructure along a restricted number of corridors, giving priority to those that already exist, to limit the dividing of natural habitats and fragmentation (communication and power lines, rainwater management, regional transportation corridors).
- B. Close or convert into trails old municipal roads that are no longer being used by the municipality.

- C. Restrict the presence of telecommunications towers:
 - 1. Avoid adding telecommunication towers inside the park to avoid increasing the impact on landscapes and the footprint associated with their installation or that of associated facilities (electrical and Internet connections, access roads for maintenance).
 - 2. Implement an adequate communication network to fulfill operational and security requirements only that can assure the following:
 - i. Meet the needs of the conservation officers responsible for providing assistance when required.
 - ii. Meet the technical requirements for the implementation of a future user fee framework.
 - iii. Concentrate equipment in locations that already have telecommunication towers (Camp Fortune, fire tower).
 - iv. Take advantage of the existing towers outside the park.
 - v. Minimize the impact on the natural environment as much as possible.
 - vi. Reduce the visual impact inside and outside the park.



5.1.4 NIGHTTIME PERIODS

Management of the known adverse effects of artificial lighting and noise generated during the night is essential to the tranquillity of natural environments and the maintenance of the daily cycles of wildlife.

- A. Limit the disturbance of species and reduce light pollution by minimizing the use of Gatineau Park at night.
- B. Do not permit nighttime events that may be noisy or require lighting.
- C. Close Gatineau Park's parkways to vehicle traffic at night.
- D. Work with Camp Fortune to reduce lighting of the site at night, taking operational and safety needs into account.
- E. When lighting is required, apply night sky protection best practices based on the principles developed by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

5.1.5 ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

The natural connections between the region's large natural environments are essential to the biodiversity and ecological functions of Gatineau Park. In collaboration with people from the local community and various partners, it is important to implement innovative ways to protect these connections.

- A. Continue to raise awareness about the important contribution of the thirteen ecological corridors identified around Gatineau Park.
- B. Educate the public and external stakeholders on the importance of these corridors to ecosystem health and regional biodiversity and the value of conserving them.
- C. Work with the public and stakeholders to identify approaches that strike a balance between the ecological functionality of the corridors and local objectives.
- D. Foster improvements to the ecological corridors to promote the free movement of species. These include, for example, maintaining the greatest possible proportion of ground and forest cover and the absence of fences, laying out lots in clusters, increasing riparian buffer strips and situating recreational trails to maximize the width of the unoccupied natural buffer.

5.1.6 ARCHAEOLOGY

The known and potential archaeological resources of Gatineau Park help to better understand the region's history. It is important to protect and manage them to prevent irreversible losses.

- A. Ensure that archaeological, historical and pre-contact resources are protected by focusing on increasing knowledge of the park's archaeological potential.
- B. Where possible, prevent lakeshore and riverbank erosion from contributing to the loss of archaeological artifacts.
- C. Manage known archaeological sites in collaboration with Indigenous communities, complying with the Protocol for the Co-management of Archaeological Resources (2017) and building on the provisions of Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy.
- D. Where possible, encourage the showcase of archaeological resources on-site to enhance interpretation.

5.1.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPES

- A. Support research that will contribute to the understanding of cultural resources and the planning for their conservation.
- B. Prepare heritage value statements for cultural components and buildings, and participate in heritage assessments required by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office.
- C. Look for uses that are compatible with heritage buildings, which will allow them to be occupied and facilitate their conservation.
- D. Protect the defining characteristics of cultural landscapes as identified in the Gatineau Park Cultural Heritage Plan.
- E. As part of the knowledge being shared, include information about geomorphology, landscape changes and factors leading to settlement in the National Capital Region.
- F. Work with municipalities to protect park landscapes that are visible from beyond the park boundaries.

5.1.8 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Gatineau Park is a rich and unique natural environment for scientific research. As a result, it offers everyone a chance to appreciate and learn more about the region's nature, culture and history.

- A. Enable scientific research related to natural environments throughout the park in order to enhance knowledge and provide a scientific basis for management decisions.
- B. Allow for scientific research that does little or no harm to the species being studied and their ecosystem.
- C. Encourage and oversee third-party scientific research, including citizen science initiatives.
- D. Share scientific knowledge and educate visitors and the public on the value of the park's environmental components.

5.1.9 SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The offer of outdoor recreation activities in Gatineau Park is supported by buildings, structures and infrastructure that are designed and operated with the lowest possible ecological impact.

- A. Apply a planning and design approach to buildings that both respects and integrates with the natural environment, and that maintains or improves the environmental conditions of the site.
- B. As often as possible, incorporate energy-efficiency solutions into new construction and buildings being renovated. As much as possible, make use of ecological and sustainable design, including the orientation of buildings to ensure proper ventilation and the penetration of natural light, the installation of low water-consumption and energy efficient systems, permeable roadway materials, green roofs, alternative energy production and the use of local or recycled materials.
- C. Ensure that the proposed design solutions are reliable over the long term and economically sustainable.



5.1.10 ESTABLISHING LEGAL PROTECTION

The protection and management of Gatineau Park are carried out under the authority conferred by the *National Capital Act*. Additional legal tools may assist in the park's management.

- A. Renew the NCC's legal framework in order to provide it with more modern powers that are better suited to the park's conservation objectives, and which specifies:
 - 1. The park's boundaries;
 - 2. A clear statement of the park's conservation mission and the NCC's responsibility to protect this conservation park;
 - 3. The ability to modernize the pricing framework for activities;
 - 4. The regulatory tools for the management of activities;
 - 5. The authority delegated to conservation officers and park administrators.



5.2 EXPERIENCES IN NATURE

Gatineau Park is a popular outdoor recreational area. It contributes to the quality of life and well-being of residents and visitors. The Master Plan maintains the primacy of the conservation of the park’s natural environment, while encouraging people to discover it and engage in outdoor activities that are environmentally friendly and promote long-term conservation.

The park’s territory also has a rich history and culture that must be enhanced, while ensuring the conservation of natural areas.

DRAFT-JULY 2020



5.2.1 ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

Gatineau Park offers an enchanting setting for enjoying contact with nature through environmentally-friendly outdoor activities in ways that:

- A. Allow for activities taking place on trails, in officially designated areas, or giving access to lakes.
- B. Create programs that encourage visitors to experience the park and learn about its conservation role.
- C. Manage the park to make outdoor activities possible and compatible with and respectful of the natural environment. Physical training alone or in groups is permitted, as long as it does not interfere with the experience of other visitors seeking to discover the natural environment.
- D. Allow sports competitions, primarily at Camp Fortune, when compatible with the nature of the venue. Sports competitions may be acceptable elsewhere in the park if the evaluation using the Activity and Event Acceptability Grid is satisfactory.

5.2.2 MANAGING QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE

Several factors have an impact on the quality of the visitor experience in Gatineau Park, including the quality of the facilities, ease of orientation, traffic, and interactions between the various types of activities. Site management must provide the best conditions for a pleasant visit.

- A. Manage the flow of visitors on a regular or time-limited basis to areas that attract large numbers of visitors, or where environmental sensitivity is unique.
- B. Aim for a concentration of visitors that takes into account the size of the reception area and recreational infrastructure, the sustainability of the area, and on the visitor perception of a quality experience.
- C. Promote the park so as to avoid overloading recreational areas, manage peak traffic and suggest other places to visit.
- D. Encourage the development of additional recreational facilities outside the park and share expertise with regional organizations.
- E. Redirect the development of recreational facilities associated with neighbourhood parks outside the park (e.g., playground structures, outdoor sports fields).

- F. Maintain a consistent, efficient, and easily understood directional signage system on the trail system that contributes to user safety. Update the signage system for trail numbering and degree of difficulty to reflect the evolution of the trail network.
- G. Support the co-existence of various activities on common trails by establishing and promoting a code of conduct.
- H. On the parkway network, ask drivers to be careful with vulnerable people and require them to behave in a manner that promotes their safety and that complies with the Quebec Highway Safety Code.
- I. Continue to collect data and track indicators regarding experience quality and park sustainability based on visitor traffic.

5.2.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In addition to offering visitors varied experiences, educational and interpretive activities on Gatineau Park’s many natural, scenic, heritage and archaeological assets foster their attachment to the park. People are more likely to want to protect a place they love.

- A. Promote environmental education activities and cultural heritage interpretation through a variety of means and venues to reach diverse target audiences including school groups, campers, new Canadians, local residents and out-of-town visitors.
- B. Establish partnerships and create educational programs to raise awareness of the environment and showcase the park’s heritage and cultural resources.
- C. Among the sites listed in the Gatineau Park Cultural Heritage Plan, first highlight those that are outside the wildlife and plants conservation zone and that are along trails or located at activity sites.

- D. Maintain, renew and create signage for static interpretation along trails, in exhibition rooms or at strategic park locations, in addition to the dissemination of information.
- E. Name areas in a manner that contributes to their interpretation, following the NCC’s geographical names policy.
- F. Ensure that the natural environment and heritage buildings are protected during the installation of facilities, materials and equipment for the protection and interpretation of cultural resources.

5.2.4 DESIGN AND SIGNAGE QUALITY

Although there are few new structures or buildings planned in Gatineau Park, the quality of their design will enhance visitor experience. Their design must therefore be consistent with the natural environment. The signage must also add to the quality of the areas.

- A. Apply Gatineau Park’s architectural guidelines when constructing or renovating buildings.
- B. Strive for design excellence in site design and building construction, taking into account visitor comfort and experience, visual quality, landscape, insertion into the natural environment and site sustainability.
- C. Take into account the meaning of an area and the protection of heritage values in any intervention that would result in a change.
- D. Design features that ensure visitor safety and prevent vandalism.
- E. Ensure that signage that enhances the visitor’s nature experience has the least impact possible on the visual quality of the activity area and the natural landscapes, whether this signage pertains to safety, rules, orientation, education or promotion.
- F. Ensure that the signage and furnishings are in line with the identity of the park, while being consistent with the signage system and the Capital’s brand image.



- G. Ensure that third party signage is authorized by the NCC and that permanent commercial signage is limited to directional information and meets the requirements for visual quality and integration into a natural environment.
- H. Ensure that the signage is relevant, clear, concise and appropriate to the audience and location.
- I. Limit the use of dynamic lit signs to park entrances or on the road network, for reasons of public safety, to convey a single message and not a repetition of a previously communicated message.

5.2.5 BOATING

Some of Gatineau Park's vast lakes are navigable and accessible to the public, and offer a variety of natural vistas.

- A. Encourage and promote non-motorized watercraft (e.g., canoes, kayaks, paddle boards) and uses that have the least impact on shorelines and wildlife.
- B. Implement measures, including monitoring, to reduce the risk of spreading invasive alien species, such as boat inspections and the raising of boater awareness regarding spreading risks.
- C. In collaboration with municipalities and Transport Canada, implement measures to limit shoreline erosion.

5.2.6 MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES

- A. Allow the movement of motor vehicles authorized under the Quebec Highway Safety Code on parkways, when open.
- B. As a general rule, do not permit motorized recreational activities within the park. Prohibit vehicles such as ATVs (4 × 4), motocross bikes and other motor vehicles unless they are used for park operations or are specifically authorized in the Master Plan.
- C. Do not allow remotely controlled motorized devices unless they are used for park operations and management (e.g., drones, aircraft and carts).
- D. Allow class 1 electric mountain bikes on nature trails where mountain biking is permitted.
- E. Only authorize the passage of snowmobiles in the places indicated by land designations (see chapter 6), as well as the use of snowmobiles necessary for park maintenance.

5.2.7 ACCOMMODATIONS

Park accommodations allow for a way of connecting with nature that is different than during the day. However, measures are needed to regulate this activity and protect the environment.

- A. Maintain, as a primary form of accommodation, the various forms of camping, including serviced and non-serviced sites and ready-to-camp facilities (yurts, four-season tents, shelters, mini-cabins).
- B. Allow for the operation of accommodations such as hotels, lodges or tourist residences with more than one unit, primarily for the purpose of using and maintaining a heritage building that could be integrated into the cultural offering.
- C. Avoid offering short-term accommodations on NCC property in buildings consisting of only one accommodation unit.

5.2.8 OTHER VISITOR SERVICES

The provision of services that complement outdoor activities enhances the visitor experience. These services can be provided by the NCC or by partners, following an agreement.

- A. Enable visitor services in Gatineau Park that:
 - 1. Enhance the outdoor experience and are compatible with park objectives and authorized uses in the targeted areas.
 - 2. Remain complementary to the park’s recreational activities.
 - 3. Do not compete with a potential commercial offerings in the vicinity of the park, unless they better meet the needs of visitors because they are located in the park or permit occupancy of a building of heritage or historic interest.
- B. Encourage tourist services around the park that facilitate the proper use of the park’s recreational opportunities and infrastructures, and support the nature experiences provided within the park.

5.2.9 NEW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

New trends in recreation may emerge in the future and there may be new demands for events in Gatineau Park. In order to review any potential new land use applications, management tools are needed to validate the compatibility of new requests with park objectives and to support the federal approval process.

- A. Develop an acceptability matrix that assesses the relevance of new activities, with particular regard to:
 - 1. Compatibility with the park’s conservation mission and brand image;
 - 2. The strategic orientation of each land use area as stated in the Master Plan;
 - 3. The cumulative impact of the recreational infrastructure footprint and habitat fragmentation;
 - 4. The objective of connecting with nature through outdoor activities;
 - 5. The impact on scientifically studied environmental resources;
 - 6. The protection of existing cultural resources (heritage, landscapes, etc.);
 - 7. Coexistence with other established activities;
 - 8. Desired experience;
 - 9. The remaining capacity of recreational and reception area infrastructure;
 - 10. Ability to manage transportation.



- B. In addition to assessing new events in terms of the following:
1. The event's connection to outdoor sports and cultural activities;
 2. The audience reached by the event (participant diversity, performance variety);
 3. The legacy potential for the park in support of regular programming;
 4. Event reach (local, regional, national, international);
 5. The potential for multi-year recurrence;
 6. The number of events per year and the impact on public access to the park;
 7. The economic contribution to the region.



5.3 EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

The popularity of the park is reflected in the ever-increasing number of visits. In order to maintain access to the park while gradually reducing the impact of transportation on the environment and visitor experience, it is necessary to implement a transportation strategy that combines public transit services, active travel modes and proper use of parking. Equitable access to the park and activity nodes is essential to provide everyone with a quality experience.



5.3.1 GENERAL APPROACH

- A. Ensure that all visitors have a great experience by making transportation efficient, enjoyable and safe.
- B. Broadly speaking, improve access to park activity sites without increasing the environmental impact of transportation (footprint, wildlife collisions, noise and animal disturbances, habitat fragmentation, GHG emissions).
- C. Adapt the management of motorized access to the park according to high- and low-traffic periods, providing the simplest and most appropriate way of accessing activity sites given available parking spaces.
- D. Provide access to park facilities based on park sustainability, environmental impact and the quality of visitor experience.
- E. Promote options for alternative methods of transportation in order to progressively reduce vehicle traffic within the park, thus improving user experience and safety, transit fluidity and environment quality.

5.3.2 EXPERIENCE QUALITY AND SAFETY

Landscape quality and safe transportation are among the factors that influence how the park will be perceived by visitors. Health and safety are essential considerations in the design, management and use of the park.

- A. Maintain the identification of road entrances and access points to the park by creating a clear delineation—physical, symbolic and identity-based—around the park to reinforce the visitor experience and represent the transition from urban space to conservation park.
- B. Mark the park boundaries on parkways going through the park (Notch Road, Eardley-Masham Road, Lac-des-Loups Road, St-Louis Street and Boulevard des Allumettières).
- C. To promote the safety of all visitors in transit, allow for road design that can prevent accidents and reduce conflicts between users on parkways, municipal roads and park trails.
- D. Regulate driving and cycling behaviour on the road to improve public safety and user experience.
- E. Ensure the enforcement of the Quebec Highway Safety Code.
- F. As part of repair works on the parkways, consider integrating improvements to increase user safety and road sharing by cyclists and drivers.
- G. Manage vehicle access to the parkways overnight.

5.3.3 OTHER WAYS OF ACCESSING THE PARK

Reducing the impact of transportation on the environment and visitor experience is largely accomplished by reduced vehicle traffic in the park. In order for there to be a change in transportation habits, options must be put in place in advance.

- A. Support improved linkages of regional trail systems to the park that are built by municipalities.
- B. Maintain existing official access ways by road and trails and allow trail access as proposed by the Responsible Trail Management Project that connects to the park trail system.
- C. Where appropriate and feasible, promote and support other transportation systems such as buses, shuttles and, preferably, non-motorized modes of access.
- D. Provide other modes of transportation, such as public transit, that meet the need in a financially sustainable manner.

- E. Work with regional public carriers and private partners to provide users with public transit services and/or specialized shuttles to the park’s main activity areas and key attractions.
- F. Promote existing public transit services near park access points.
- G. Endeavour to favour public transit over cars at the Chelsea and South entrances when necessary to improve access and traffic conditions.
- H. Promote incentives for high occupancy vehicles to optimize the use of existing infrastructure and reduce the number of vehicles in the park.

5.3.4 PARKING MANAGEMENT

The number and location of parking spaces is part of an overall sustainable visitor experience and travel management approach to reduce the impact of vehicle traffic in the park, while ensuring access to venues and providing a quality experience. However, the growth in visitation cannot be supported by an increase in parking spaces in the central areas of the park. It will have to be based on a sustainable transportation strategy that includes public transit and parking at the edge of the park.

- A. Do not expand parking lots in the area surrounding the Gatineau, Champlain and Fortune Lake Parkways.
- B. Direct parking needs, where warranted, along and near the perimeter of the park and on its inner edge, as well as in visitor reception areas from which public transit services may be established.
- C. Look to implement alternative transportation options before adding parking.
- D. Assess the appropriateness of adding parking spaces by considering, among other things, the infrastructure density index, environmental impacts, cumulative effects on traffic, visitor experience, and density of traffic to warrant the deployment of transit services.
- E. Prohibit parking along the edges of parkways and outside designated parking areas.

5.3.5 ACCESS FOR ALL

Gatineau Park is a place where it is easy to connect with nature. It will continue to offer outdoor activity areas where the topography and natural appearance of the site are accessible for most people.

- A. Maintain a variety of outdoor sites designed to enable access for people of all levels of ability. These include visitor reception areas, the Mackenzie King Estate, picnic areas, lookouts, Sugarbush Trail, Pioneers Trail and Mulvihill Lake.
- B. Limit alterations to recreational sites to those that do not significantly affect the natural environment and do not modify a site’s natural character.
- C. In the summer, ensure a balance between periods when parkways are open only to cycling and non-motorized activities and those when they are open to motorized traffic to facilitate access to other activities areas to a larger diversity of visitors and to take advantage of the parkways landscape.



5.4 ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

Gatineau Park exists for the community and it needs it to exist. The protection of this natural place, both for the economic and environmental benefits it brings to the surroundings and for the high-quality social, cultural and outdoor place it represents in the Capital Region, will be the result of a collective effort.



5.4.1 INDIGENOUS CULTURE AND PRESENCE

- A. Build partnerships with the Indigenous community so that its members can reclaim a place and a role on the land that is now Gatineau Park while exploring various ways of contributing to reconciliation between the peoples.
- B. Ensure that First Nations culture, history and traditions are an integral part of Gatineau Park and that Indigenous communities participate in sharing them.
- C. Review the feasibility of renaming certain places to reflect the significance of these places to Indigenous communities and contribute to the interpretation of sites from this perspective.
- D. Provide a physical gathering place for Indigenous communities.
- E. Explore possibilities for involving Indigenous communities in park management activities.
- F. Encourage partnerships with organizations to contribute to the safeguarding of archaeological resources.
- G. In accordance with the memorandum of understanding, involve Indigenous communities in conducting archaeological research and showcasing artifacts and history.
- H. Foster collaborations that can economically benefit Indigenous communities.

5.4.2 REGIONAL RELATIONS

Collaboration between organizations is essential to achieving the objectives of the Master Plan. There is a need for involvement from organizations as well as a particular openness to shared management approaches to coordinate regional efforts.

- A. Collaborate and maintain open communication with community, municipal and provincial partners to achieve shared goals for nature conservation, regional prosperity and quality of life.
- B. Use preventive planning and collaborative management to conserve the park's natural and cultural heritage.
- C. Work in partnership with municipalities and the Regional County Municipalities (RCMs) to facilitate the conservation of ecological corridors.
- D. Provide expertise to organizations and municipalities that wish to build or expand the offer of outdoor recreation outside Gatineau Park with the aim of reducing pressure on the park's recreational sites, biodiversity and natural environment.

5.4.3 COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Protecting park resources is a shared responsibility. The general public and, in particular, those engaged in outdoor activities in the park are encouraged to take action to conserve it for the benefit of future generations.

- A. Promote the primary purpose of the Capital's conservation park and the ecological services it provides so that it is recognized and protected by visitors, organizations and the public.
- B. Publicize steps taken to attain the park's goals.
- C. Maintain open and transparent communication with users through committees and round tables (advisory committee, user dialogue sessions, agreements with groups, annual joint action plan).
- D. Continue to work with Friends of Gatineau Park to provide education, awareness and interpretation programs.
- E. Create volunteer programs to allow users to help implement various park programs.



- F. Work with members of the public and make users accountable in the following ways:
1. Involve them in the development of a code of conduct to limit environmental impacts and promote the shared and friendly use of trails, parkways and other activity areas.
 2. Involve them as code of conduct ambassadors.
 3. Involve them in park stewardship, including the monitoring and maintaining of trails and activity areas.
 4. Encourage and support citizen science initiatives in the environmental and archaeological sciences.

5.4.4 PRICING FRAMEWORK AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PARK OPERATIONS

Funding for park operations remains a challenge and must be addressed. In addition to government support, an access fee structure for the park is one way for users to collectively contribute to maintaining the quality and quantity of recreational offerings and services and help protect the natural environments where the activities take place.

- A. Adopt a pricing framework that:
1. Reaches all visitors and applies fairly, taking into account the situation of low-income people.
 2. Includes park access, method of transportation used and activity enjoyed.
 3. Makes it possible to promote ways of accessing the park that help reduce traffic congestion and parking lot overcrowding in the park.
 4. Fosters a positive effect on the park environment.
- B. Accept initiatives that support the continuation of activities and maintenance of infrastructure within the park (sponsorships, plaques on furnishings, adopt-a-trail program, philanthropy, volunteer work).
- C. Seek partnerships with companies whose objectives are consistent with NCC values and objectives for the park and control the type of sponsorship advertising based on NCC policies.



5.5 REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The NCC is responsible for planning and managing the public lands that make up Gatineau Park. The management of these lands must focus on the long-term conservation of natural environments and the maintenance of environmentally-friendly outdoor recreation.

DRAFT-JULY 2020



5.5.1 NCC PROPERTIES

The NCC owns the large majority of the 361 km² of land in Gatineau Park, and some land outside its boundaries, which are in a natural state and can play an important role as a buffer between the park and surrounding areas.

- A. Retain all federal lands in Gatineau Park.
- B. Retain all federal lands outside Gatineau Park that contribute to its conservation mission and that are necessary to support its outdoor recreational offerings.

5.5.2 PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE PARK

In the park, some land is privately owned and under municipal jurisdiction. It is essential to work with the RCMs, municipalities and property owners to ensure that the development of these properties respects the natural environment in which they are located. The park was created through the gradual acquisition of properties within its boundaries. This way of doing things remains the NCC's long-term goal.

- A. Continue with the private property acquisition program within the park as a means of protecting the environment and naturalizing the land.
- B. Acquire lands by mutual agreement when they come up for sale, when opportunities present themselves and taking into account priorities.
- C. Employ other forms of protection agreed upon with the owners when acquisition is not feasible.
- D. Use expropriation as a last resort, to prevent a major irreversible environmental impact (e.g. subdivisions).
- E. Encourage the owners of properties that remain private to adopt best environmental practices regarding the development and use of their land and the management of their sanitation systems.
- F. For private properties, encourage the municipalities to implement design guidelines adapted to the riparian environment and the natural habitats.
- G. Encourage municipalities to adapt their bylaws to limit the subdivision of large private properties in the park.

5.5.3 RESIDENTIAL LEASES

The acquisition of private property in the park increases the amount of public land and reduces the pressure on the environment. Life-cycle management of residences acquired by the NCC will provide guidance on how to dispose of buildings in the short, medium or long term.

- A. Over the long term, eliminate residential use of NCC properties.
- B. Permit the leasing of NCC-owned buildings for residential purposes when the homes are still in good condition (not at the end of their useful lives) in order to comply with budgetary realities and environmental management principles for resources used in the construction.
- C. Assess the appropriateness of demolishing rented residential buildings and naturalizing the land when major works are required, unless the buildings are protected for their heritage value.

5.5.4 COMMERCIAL LEASES

- Some activities and visitor services are delivered by short- and long-term lease partners with the NCC.
- A. Authorize commercial leases if the activities or services rendered are consistent with the objectives of the park and the authorized uses in the area where they are located.
 - B. Authorize a temporary commercial lease, the functions of which are compatible with park objectives, in order to make it financially viable to acquire a property with the long-term goal of converting the area to the park’s primary mission: to conserve natural environments and allow the discovery of these environments through nature-friendly outdoor activities.
 - C. Upon expiry of the terms of existing leases, any new lease or renewal must be consistent with the orientations and objectives of the Master Plan.

5.5.5 PRIVATE PROPERTIES OF INTEREST LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PARK

- Some lands outside the park form ecological corridors and have significant environmental value. They contribute to healthy ecosystems. Others are of strategic importance because they provide access to outdoor recreation sites.
- A. Work with RCMs, municipalities and the owners of lands located in an ecological corridor to adopt best practices for land development that contribute to ecological connectivity.
 - B. Promote the implementation of protective measures for owners to conserve the natural environment of their property.
 - C. Explore methods for protecting ecological corridors other than the acquisition of private property (donations, easements or agreements).
 - D. Take steps to protect the value of important lands located outside the park that provide access to existing recreational areas.





6 Land Use Designations

This chapter presents the permitted land use designations and land use intensity based on the area in Gatineau Park. Land use designations are the authorized activities or uses in a given area. They support the implementation of the park's vision and goals. They also ensure that interventions and activities are spatially and functionally consistent.

Some uses are permitted throughout the park : scientific research, the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and habitats and actions to protect species at risk. These uses are even supported and encouraged.

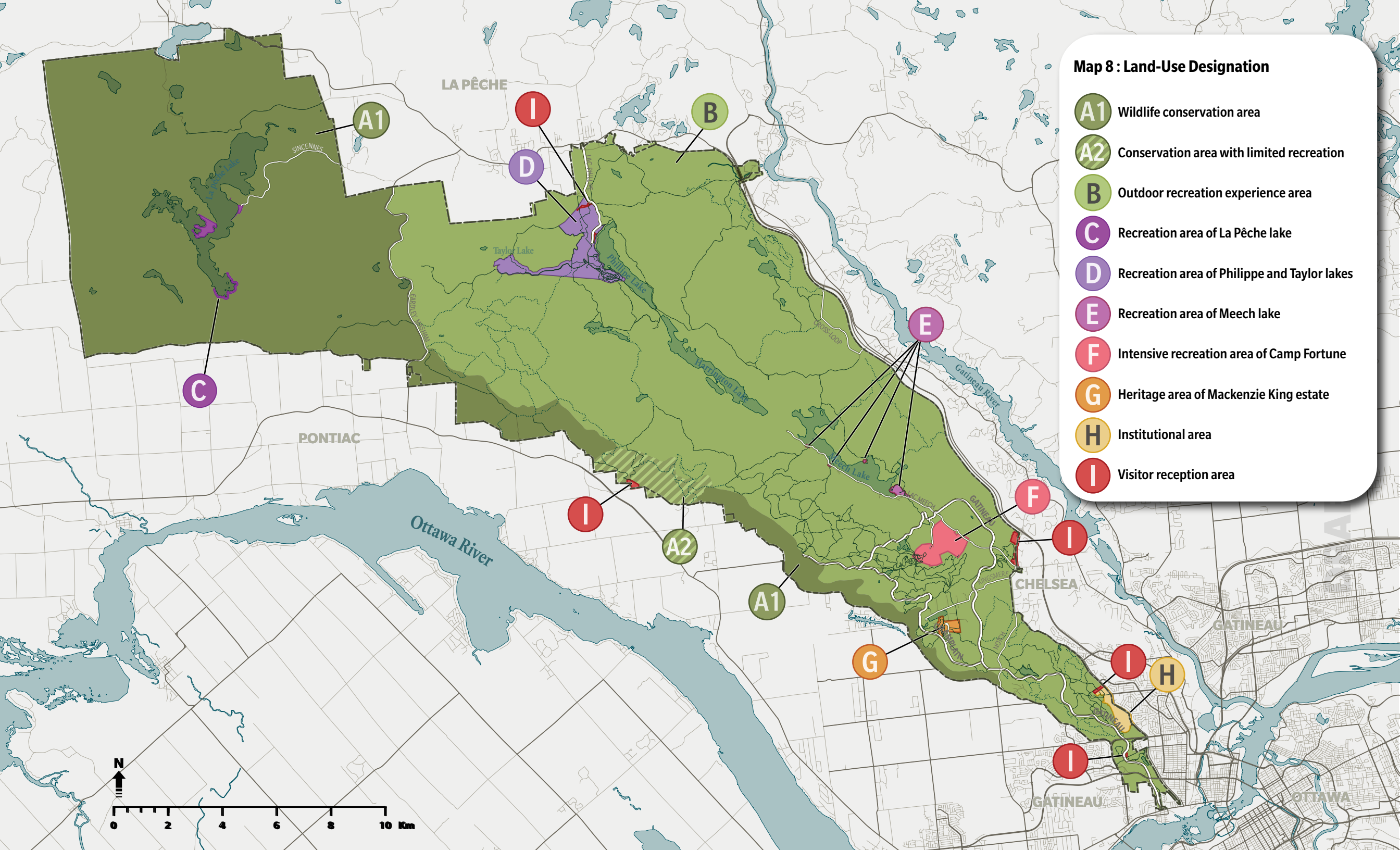
At the same time, some activities are specifically prohibited throughout the park to reduce environmental impacts. Paragliding and hang gliding, for example, as well as the holding of night events and motorized competitions, are not permitted. Camping, other than at designated accommodation areas, and swimming, other than at designated locations, are also prohibited.

In addition, visitors are not allowed to travel off-trail or off-road, except for activities offered through an NCC educational program. Exceptions to this prohibition include limited authorized orientation, map and compass activities (with a permit issued by the NCC), which may take place at designated locations, as indicated for designation area B "Outdoor Recreational Experience Area".

Finally, resource exploitation (minerals, forestry) as well as hunting and gathering are prohibited, as are any other activities prohibited under existing NCC regulations.

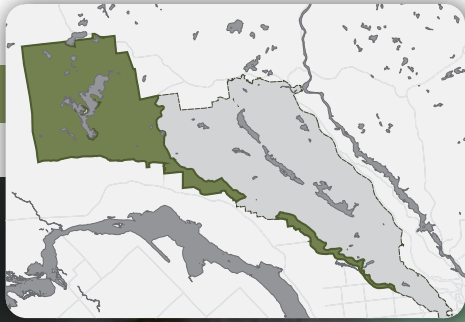
Map 8 : Land-Use Designation

- A1** Wildlife conservation area
- A2** Conservation area with limited recreation
- B** Outdoor recreation experience area
- C** Recreation area of La Pêche lake
- D** Recreation area of Philippe and Taylor lakes
- E** Recreation area of Meech lake
- F** Intensive recreation area of Camp Fortune
- G** Heritage area of Mackenzie King estate
- H** Institutional area
- I** Visitor reception area



	Scientific research	Ecosystem and habitat conservation and restoration	Interpretation, education	Hiking	Mountain biking	Road cycling	Swimming, beach	Boating	Fishing	Launching facility	Boat rental	Sale and rental of items and equipment associated with recreational activities rental	Horseback riding	Rock climbing	Speleology	Nordic walking	Snowshoeing	Cross-country skiing	Downhill skiing	Biathlon	Winter cycling	Winter camping
A1- Wildlife conservation	X	X																				
A2- Conservation with limited recreation	X	X	X	X									X	X			X	X				
B- Outdoor recreation	X	X	X	X	X	X						X		X	X	X	X	X			X	
C- La Pêche Lake	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X										
D- Philippe and Taylor Lakes	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X			X	X
E- Meech Lake	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X				
F- Camp Fortune	X	X	X	X	X							X					X	X	X	X	X	
G- Mackenzie King Estate	X	X	X	X								X				X	X	X				
H- Institutional	X	X	X	X	X	X						X										
I- Visitor Reception	X	X	X	X								X										

	A1- Wildlife conservation
	A2- Conservation with limited recreation
X	B- Outdoor recreation
	C- La Pêche Lake
	D- Philippe and Taylor Lakes
	E- Meech Lake
	F- Camp Fortune
X	G- Mackenzie King Estate
	H- Institutional
	I- Visitor Reception



A1 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA



Land Description

The wildlife conservation designation covers the area of Gatineau Park around La Pêche Lake (except the beach and canoe-camping sites) and Eardley Escarpment. It is partially bounded to the east by Eardley-Masham Road.

Because of the quality of the natural components of this area, the park's conservation mission takes on special significance in this sector. The distance from housing areas, the surrounding rural environment and reduced accessibility have contributed to the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. For a long time, this sector has been considered a nature area to protect habitat size and biodiversity. The challenges consist of maintaining the integrity of the park's natural ecosystems and protecting its ecological links in this area.

Nestled amid Pontiac's patchwork of farms and woodlands, this conservation area connects the park's natural habitats with the Ottawa River and with major forest ecosystems on its west and north boundaries.

Combined with the natural environments outside the park, the protected habitats in the park are larger. They contribute to conservation at the regional level.

The ecological value of this set of ecosystems is high. It therefore deserves better protection. It is particularly noteworthy due the microclimate of Eardley Escarpment, which is home to rare habitats and species, the high concentration of species at risk, the connectivity with other natural environments, the fragile habitats, especially those of the Escarpment, and by low habitat fragmentation due to trails or roads.

With its many shoals and swamps, numerous secondary water bodies, varied topography, vast forest tracts, and long history of land use, the area around La Pêche Lake provides a natural habitat for numerous species.

The environmental value of this area includes the presence of coniferous forests, many wetlands and diverse and continuous habitats that benefit sensitive species as well as several wildlife species requiring extensive habitat.

The Eardley Escarpment is the richest and most fragile ecosystem in Gatineau Park. It consists of a cliff facing south-southwest, rising about 300 metres, and enjoys a warm, dry microclimate that is unique to the region. However, this microclimate and the steep slopes of the escarpment make it fragile and highly susceptible to erosion. Several plant species found there are growing at the northern edge of their geographic range. Indeed, the Eardley Escarpment is characterized by a high degree of plant diversity, including species at risk. It marks the point where the Canadian Shield and the St. Lawrence Valley meet and is culturally significant because of the panoramas with it as the focal point.

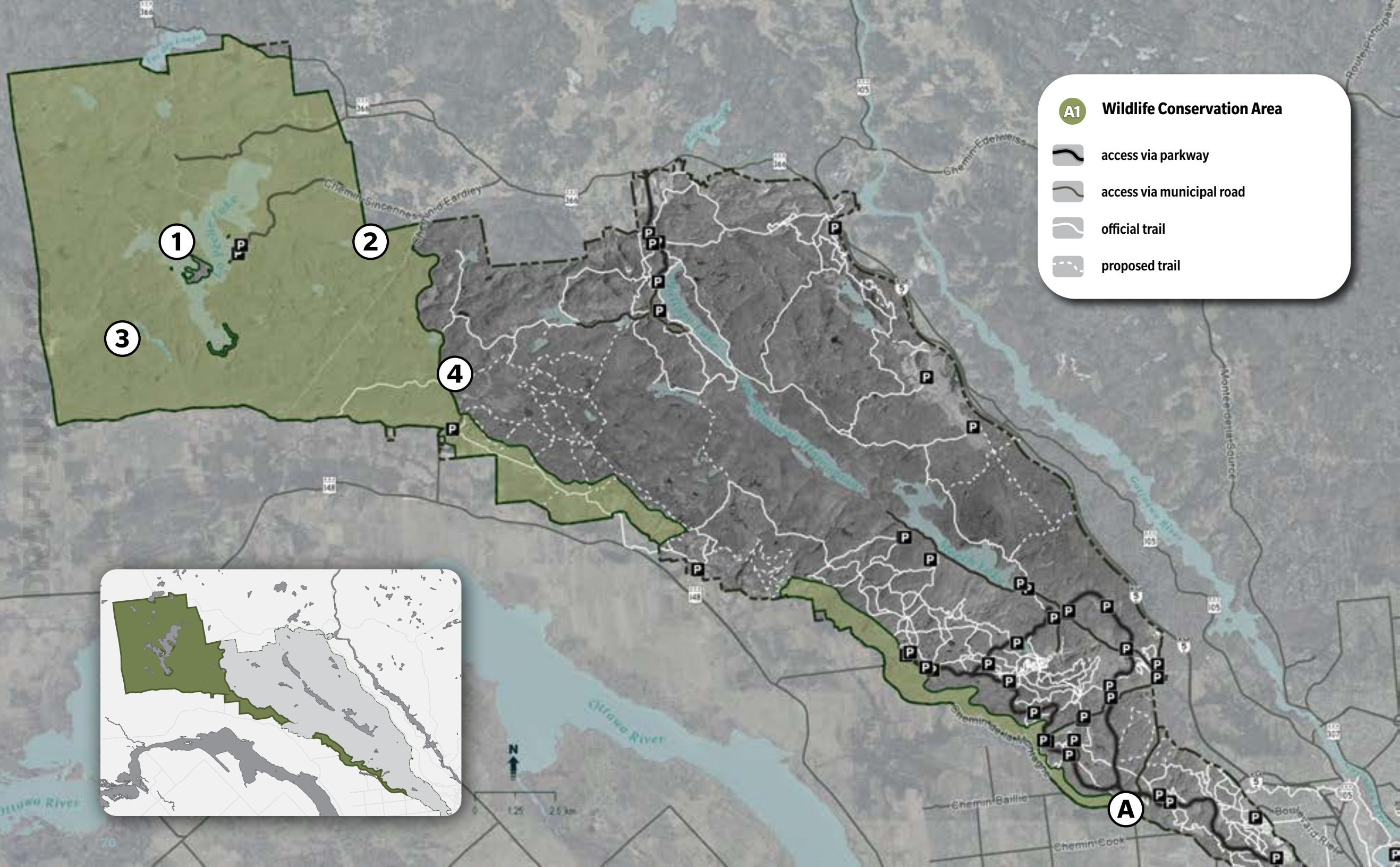
Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Protect rich and highly fragile ecosystems.
- ▶ Maintain the sector’s ecological integrity.
- ▶ Eliminate fragmentation and restore ecosystems.
- ▶ Create a natural area where the only human activities are ecological monitoring and restoration.
- ▶ Ensure connectivity to natural environments outside the park.
- ▶ Ensure landscape conservation.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Authorized Scientific Research
- ▶ Protection and restoration of ecosystems, wildlife and plants

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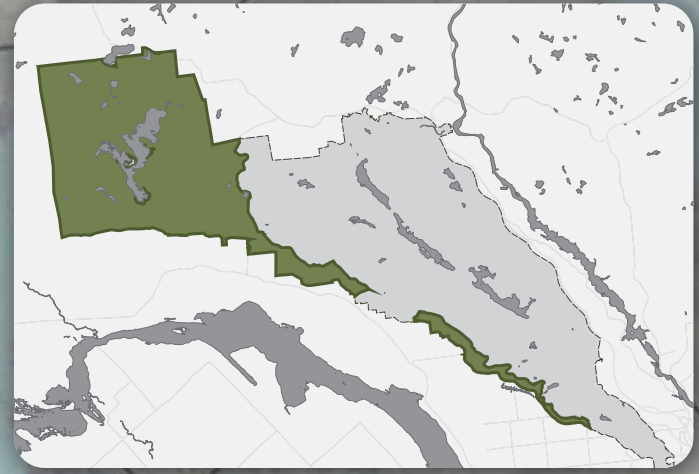
A1 Wildlife Conservation Area

access via parkway

access via municipal road

official trail

proposed trail



Specific Policies

- ▶ Communicate to the public the unique ecosystems of the sector, the richness of its biodiversity and the specific species found there.
 - ▶ Enhance signage and other tools along the boundaries of this sector to sensitize park users to its ecological sensitivity, and to deter physical access.
 - ▶ Prohibit recreational activities.
 - ▶ Close unofficial trails and restore natural habitats.
 - ▶ Reduce the infrastructure footprint at every opportunity.
 - ▶ Do not grant leases for land that will be acquired and that are to be naturalized over the short term.
 - ▶ Close old municipal roads.
-
- ① Demolish the Haven and naturalize the site.
 - ② Close and demolish Camp Gatineau and naturalize the site.
 - ③ Close the existing snowmobile trail in the Curley Lake sector.
 - ④ Relocate the snowmobile trail along Eardley-Masham Road (east side) if the community supports the project and private landowners to the north and south grant long-term consent for snowmobiles to pass through their properties.

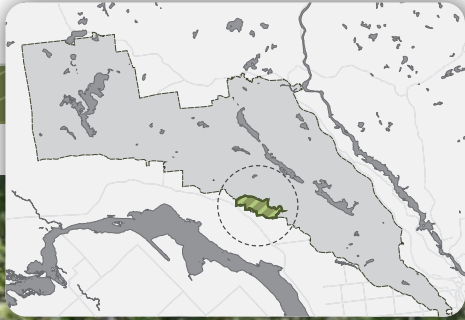


Targeted Uses and Additional Policies

Ⓐ STRUTT HOUSE

Give Strutt House, a recognized federal heritage building on Eardley Escarpment, a purpose that would help protect the building while granting occasional but limited public access in order to conserve the surrounding natural environment.

- ▶ Limit the number of visitors to the site.
- ▶ Close the access road behind the property.
- ▶ Allow occasional public access (e.g., during Culture Days, etc.).
- ▶ Examples of possible uses: accommodations for an artist or scientist-in-residence, venue for architectural or design workshops, etc.



A2 LIMITED RECREATION CONSERVATION AREA



Land Description

This sector includes small areas near the Pontiac Visitor Centre, which provides access to the Luskville Falls trail and climbing sites, which are activity sites in Gatineau Park. The Eardley Escarpment has had rock climbing activities for many years. However, over the past 10 years, the use of the walls of this escarpment has been rationalized to greatly reduce the impact of this activity on its ecosystem and the sensitive habitats it supports. It had become essential to strike a balance that would protect this environment over the long term. The NCC has done this by overseeing this recreational practice rather than trying to eliminate it. As a result, the rock climbing sites have been designed to provide sustainable activity.

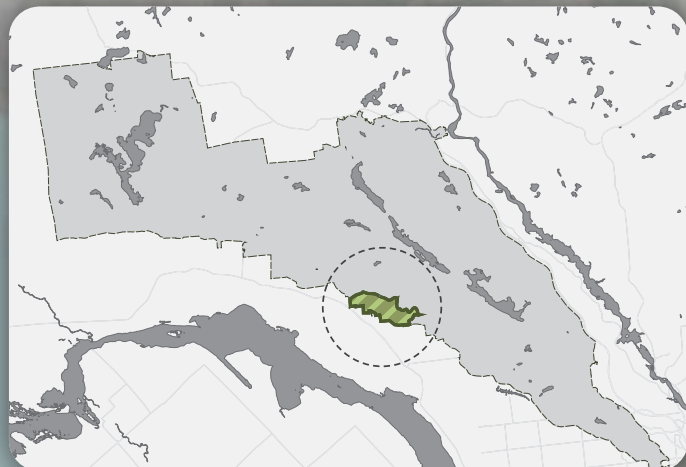
The sites also connect sections of the trail system in the outdoor recreation area to the base of the escarpment and to the plateau above it, as envisioned by the Responsible Trail Management Project. The trails to the plateau offer some of the most beautiful views in the region.

Specific Purpose and Objectives





- ▶ Protect the escarpment’s biodiversity and habitat integrity.
- ▶ Reduce the fragmentation caused by unofficial trails.
- ▶ Control outdoor activities on the escarpment.
- ▶ Showcase landscapes characteristic of where the Canadian Shield meets the St. Lawrence Lowlands.
- ▶ Permit recreational experiences for lone visitors or very small groups.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Protection and restoration of wildlife and plant ecosystems
- ▶ Horseback riding on existing trail
- ▶ Rock climbing via access trail (three locations)
- ▶ Rock climbing in summer and ice climbing in winter
- ▶ Trail hiking
- ▶ Trail activities as indicated in the Responsible Trail Management Project (hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing)
- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Additional facilities for recreation (bulletin board, washroom, shelter, table, bench), only at entry points to trails leading to activity sites

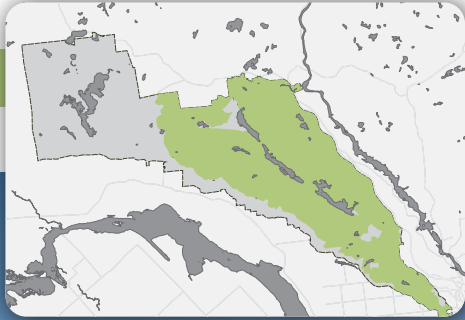


A2 Limited recreation conservation area

-  access via parkway
-  access via municipal road
-  official trail
-  proposed trail

Specific Policies

- ▶ Restore natural habitat by closing most unofficial trails.
- ▶ Design official trails, as per the Responsible Trail Management Project, in accordance with existing NCC standards for the area.
- ▶ Do not allow cycling on the trails.
- ▶ Work with clubs and interest groups through agreements to manage access and use of horseback riding and rock climbing venues.
- ▶ Ensure that facilities and recreation sites operate according to their design at all times and that the natural environment is not further impacted by the use of the sites, to ensure successful natural regeneration at restored sites.
- ▶ Build trail access on NCC lands or on private lands where there are agreements with landowners.



B OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AREA



Land Description

This area covers most of the park's territory, with its southernmost portion bordering residential neighbourhoods of the City of Gatineau and rural areas in the municipalities of Chelsea and Pontiac. Its southern end is a narrow natural strip that enters the Capital's urban area and directly links the park with the Ottawa River and Gatineau River through ecological corridors.

The park gives residents an outdoor space close to their homes. Alexandre-Taché Boulevard, Boulevard des Allumettières and Meech Lake Road are the main entry points to activities. They connect with the park's network of parkways and trails.

Though it contains many activity sites, this area is home to a great diversity of natural and valued ecosystems and habitats. They are a testament to the rich biodiversity of Eastern Canada. Several species at risk inhabit the area. Since the area is heavily used, measures to protect the natural environment are all the more important.

The varying density of recreational sites reflects the planning concept where use is more concentrated in the south of the park and increasingly spread out as it moves northward. There is a network of various circuits made up of small loops, in the south, whereas in the north, there are trails that require at least a few hours of walking. The trail system offers a beautiful outdoor experience near the urban area and longer excursions north of the park.

The area has a wide range of outdoor activities (excursions on the parkways, hiking, road and trail cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter cycling, etc.). Major attractions and noted cultural landscapes (Pink Lake, the

Mackenzie King Estate, lookouts, parkways, etc.) add to the park’s diverse recreational experiences but sometimes leads to heavy use, especially along its parkways and at certain recreational sites.

Gatineau Park is also home to official federal government residences used by individuals occupying key positions in Parliament. Though not open to the public, these sites are part of our cultural heritage and a reminder of the park’s history as a resort destination.

Meech Creek Valley has cultural landscapes and historical heritage of interest, quality farm soil, and natural ecosystems typical of rural Eastern Canada. The area has two secondary entrances: one at Wakefield and one in Meech Creek Valley via Pine Road and Cross Loop Road.

The Village of Wakefield has access to the park from the Wakefield Mill Hotel & Spa. The region’s industrial history and entrepreneurial families (Maclaren) are among the main areas of potential showcase.

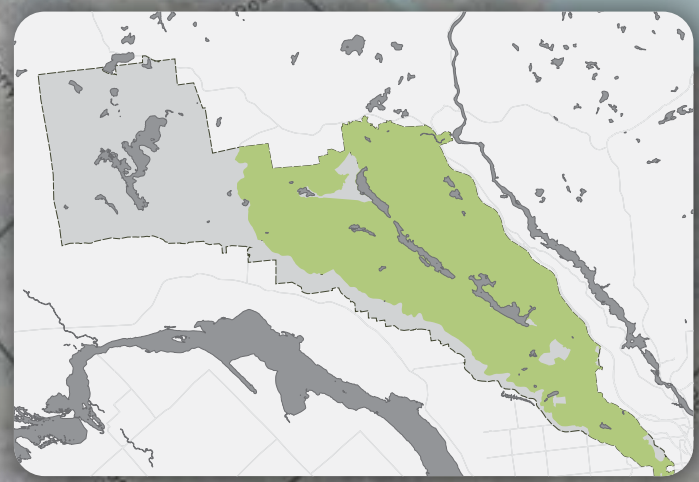
Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Maintain a trail network where visitors can explore and discover nature.
- ▶ Allow visitors to discover the park’s cultural heritage.
- ▶ Provide recreational experiences for lone visitors or groups.
- ▶ Reduce habitat fragmentation through a redesigned trail network.
- ▶ Protect cultural landscapes.

Permitted Uses

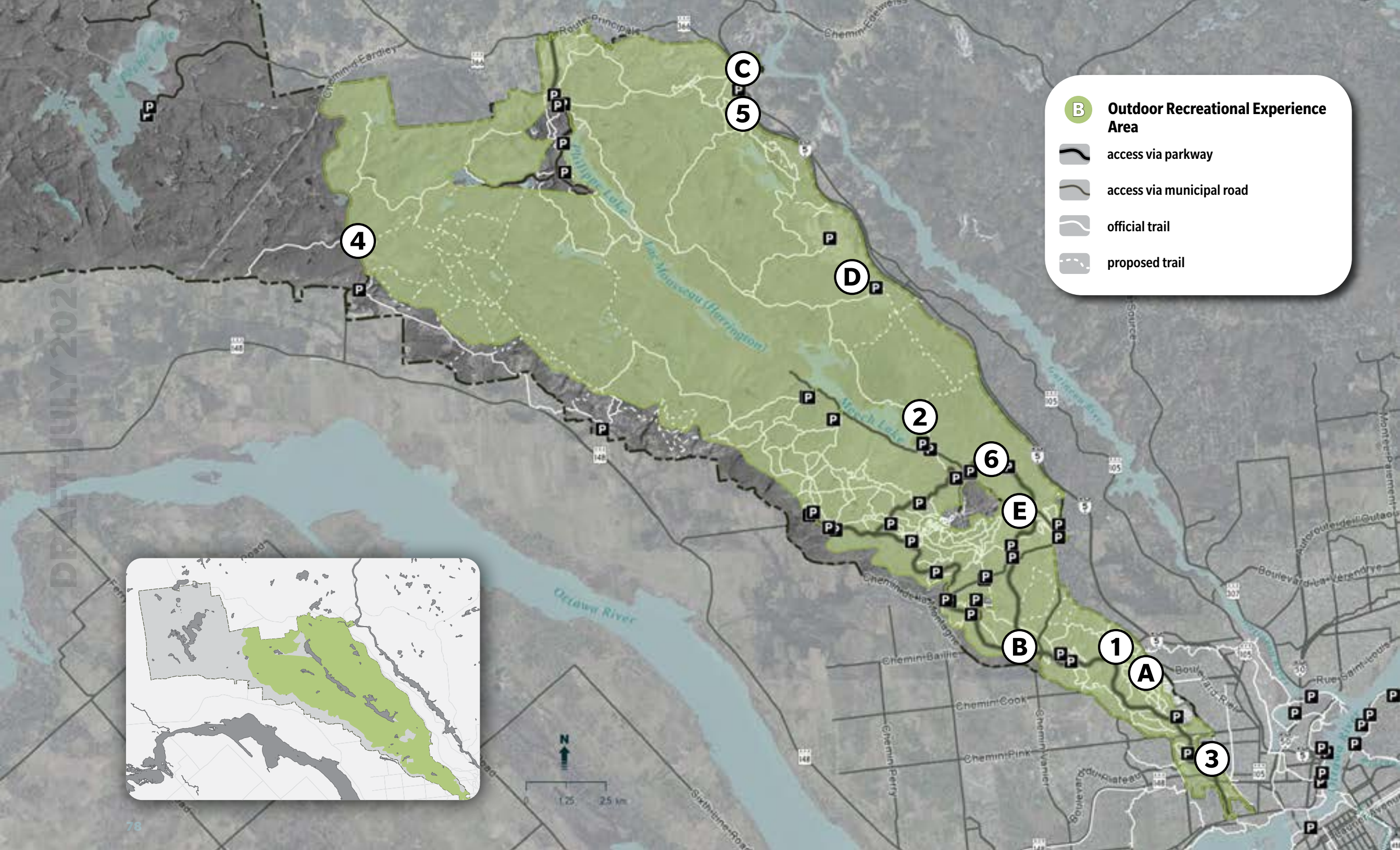
- ▶ Trail-only activities
 - Nature observation, cultural attractions
 - Hiking
 - Running/jogging
 - Cross-country skiing
 - Snowshoeing
 - Mountain biking
 - Winter cycling
 - Road cycling
 - Geocaching
- ▶ Shelter
- ▶ Picnic area
- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Speleology (Lusk Cave)
- ▶ Events that are in keeping with the event acceptability matrix
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Accommodation, based this Master Plan policies
- ▶ Annual residential leases in NCC buildings temporarily maintained in accordance with Master Plan policies
- ▶ Official residences

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B Outdoor Recreational Experience Area

- access via parkway
- access via municipal road
- official trail
- proposed trail



Specific Policies

- ▶ Restore natural habitat by closing most unofficial trails and making some trails official as per the Responsible Trail Management Project.
- ▶ Allow for the transformation of the trail system while respecting the maximum allowable footprint as per the Responsible Trail Management Project.
- ▶ To protect adjacent sensitive ecosystems, make sure trail density is lower in the north of the park than in the south.
- ▶ Prohibit access to lakes and watercourses except where swimming is permitted.
- ▶ Allow tourist accommodations only in existing heritage buildings.
- ▶ Limit the number of night shelters to the current number.
- ▶ Allow day shelters to be added without exceeding the maximum allowable footprint in accordance with the infrastructure density indicator.
- ▶ Enhance cultural landscapes identified in the Cultural Heritage Plan.
- ▶ Provide options for an Indigenous gathering place
- ▶ Close (or convert to trails) old municipal roads that no longer serve private property.

- ① Monitor the practice of nature orientation involving walking off the trail organized by groups, through a one-time permit issued by the NCC. Limit this activity to the tip of the park, south of the power lines that run through the park between Cook Road and Marie-Burger Street.
- ② Protect and showcase the Carbide Willson Ruins.
- ③ Continue efforts to protect valued habitat at Lac-des-Fées and progressively phase out municipal equipment and uses near Lac-des-Fées.
- ④ Collaborate in the establishment of the Eardley-Masham Recreation and Tourism Corridor that can be used by snowmobilers. Allow some parts of the infrastructure to encroach on lands adjacent to the corridor right-of-way. This is to reduce fragmentation elsewhere in the park by the axis used by snowmobilers previously.
- ⑤ Allow for the redevelopment of parking lot P17 to return it to the size it had prior to the construction of the highway.



Targeted Uses and Additional Policies

- A 581 CITÉ-DES-JEUNES**
- ▶ Conserve buildings with local heritage interest.
 - ▶ Protect the rural and agricultural landscape surrounding the building.
 - ▶ Permit uses that allow occupancy of existing buildings and do not result in a footprint increase (residences, offices). Ensure that the uses are distinct from the services provided at Relais plein air.



Additional Policies and Uses for Specific Sectors

B PARKWAY NETWORK

- ▶ Make sure to combine and balance the dual role of the parkways:
 - Provide access to activity sites through scenic routes (lookouts, picnic areas, trails, unique sites like Pink Lake and Mackenzie King Estate, etc.).
 - Be a source of recreation in their own right (road cycling, cross-country skiing in winter, etc.).
- ▶ In any intervention, consider the cultural landscape of the parkways.
- ▶ Maintain the original character-defining elements of the parkways, with a winding road offering a balanced field of vision and crossing a natural and verdant space. Make sure that the number of built elements other than the paved road is minimized.
- ▶ On the parkways and when they are open, allow all vehicles authorized under Quebec's Highway Safety Code (including power-assisted bicycles or "ebikes").

- ▶ Close the parkways in winter to encourage cross-country skiing.
- ▶ In summer, provide equitable access to remote activity sites and trails.
- ▶ Discourage through traffic on the parkways.
- ▶ Enforce Quebec's Highway Safety Code with regard to the way various users use and share the roadway.
- ▶ Ensure public safety and minimize conflict between the various activities on the parkways by:
 - Drafting and disseminating a code of conduct;
 - Creating a communication program to raise awareness;
 - Having car-free periods in certain sections;
- ▶ Explore ad-hoc accommodations to improve road safety and the sharing of the road by the various modes of transportation.

- ▶ Close the parkways to motorized traffic at night to ensure public safety and reduce the risk of collisions with wildlife.
- ⑥ To ensure safe access to the park in active mode from the Chelsea entrance, close Gatineau Parkway's north loop to motor vehicles once Meech Lake Road is restored between P8 and Dunlop Road.



**© AREA SURROUNDING THE
WAKEFIELD MILL HOTEL & SPA**

- ▶ Maintain an access point to Gatineau Park in this area through the trail network.
- ▶ Maintain heritage buildings by providing accommodations.
- ▶ Maintain hotel use in accordance with the approved long-term accommodation plan for the premises.
- ▶ Hotel accommodations with additional services such as: licensed food services, reception area, outdoor kitchen, pool and spa
- ▶ Greenhouse cultivation (soil-less cultivation)
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Parking, access lane
- ▶ Runoff retention pond



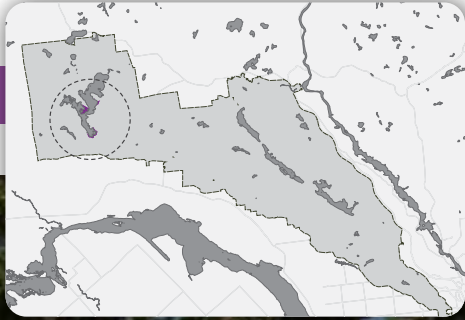
© MEECH CREEK VALLEY

- ▶ Maintain a cultural experience based on the agricultural and rural landscape.
- ▶ Have interpretation for heritage components.
- ▶ Protect the rural landscape.
- ▶ Authorize hay cutting to diversify natural habitat and enhance the cultural landscape through active and authentic farming practices.
- ▶ Transform a section of Cross Loop Road no longer providing access to private property to recreational uses (skiing, cycling, walking).



© PATROL AND MAINTENANCE STATION

- ▶ Near the parkway network, west of parking lot P8, maintain the following functions:
 - Trail patrol station;
 - Storage of equipment related to park operations;
 - Maintenance and storage of vehicles used for trail system maintenance.
- ▶ Enable the reconstruction of buildings required for maintenance and patrol operations.
- ▶ Expand the footprint of new buildings to accommodate space requirements for machinery.
- ▶ Locate new buildings to minimize the environmental impact.
- ▶ Create a plant screen to hide the areas from parking lot P8 and Meech Lake Road.



C LA PÊCHE LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA



Land Description

In the Capital Region, La Pêche Lake is one of the largest lakes where one can experience nature. Its size and landscape foster an escape from urban life, despite its proximity to the big city.

At La Pêche Lake, recreational activities are concentrated in summer. The sites are then used for swimming, non-motorized boating and canoeing. Primary access is through Sincennes Road, which takes visitors from Eardley-Masham Road to the lake's eastern shore beach and recreation facilities.

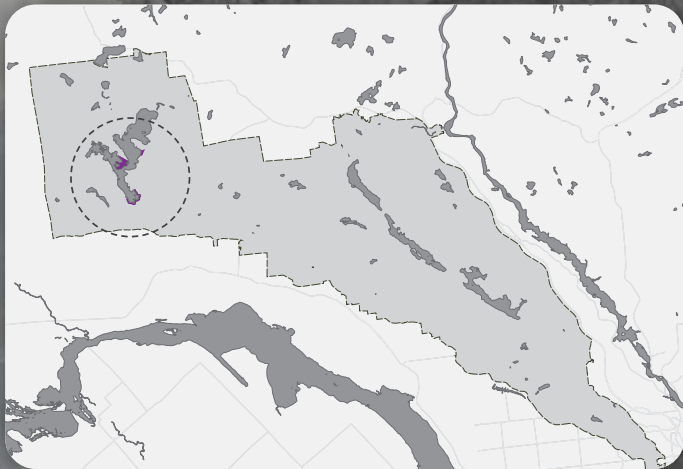
Due to the sensitivity of vegetation on the rocky shoreline of the lake and the presence of species at risk, use of the lake is limited to only a portion of its shoreline. This is to better control the pressure on this natural environment.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Contemplate nature.
- ▶ Permit isolated recreational experience for lone visitors or very small groups.
- ▶ Provide public access to natural bodies of water in the Capital Region.
- ▶ Maintain water quality and biodiversity conservation.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Swimming, beach
- ▶ Hiking limited to dedicated beach shoreline
- ▶ Accommodations – rustic canoe campsite
- ▶ Non-motorized boating
- ▶ Rental of non-motorized boats
- ▶ Launching of non-motorized boats
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Additional recreation facilities (washroom, shelter, table, bench), in previously disturbed areas

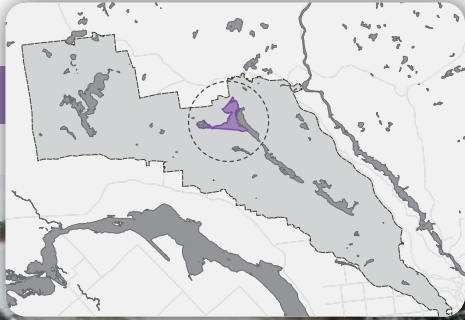


C La Pêche Lake Recreational Area

- access via parkway
- access via municipal road
- official trail
- proposed trail

Specific Policies

- ▶ Allow for use in spring, summer and fall.
- ▶ Maintain existing types of recreational facilities.
- ▶ Manage shorelines to help restore natural environments.
- ▶ Conserve the riparian vegetation strip and reintroduce it where it has degraded or disappeared.
- ▶ Encourage the use of non-motorized boats.
- ▶ Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plant species by educating boaters and requiring people to wash their boats.
- ▶ Reduce environmental impact and improve the visitor experience by relocating existing campsites without increasing their number.



D PHILIPPE AND TAYLOR LAKES RECREATIONAL AREA



Land Description

This sector includes the Philippe Lake and Taylor Lake recreational campgrounds (which comprise more than 250 sites) and the beaches around Philippe Lake. Visitors to these sites can get close to nature in a whole different way, experiencing the forest's unique ambiance at dusk, night and dawn. The camping offers amenities that remain rudimentary at this time, limited to picnic sites, washrooms, nature interpretation sites, boat rental services as well as hiking and cycling trails. The national trend for camping services has led the NCC to renew its amenities and facilities. New facilities will need to be built in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

Philippe Lake's beaches and non-motorized boat rental services offer something for everyone to enjoy on this body of water that is typical of many lakes throughout Canada.

The area offers individual and group campsites for a rustic experience. Cabins, yurts and four-season tents are available year-round to offer campers a variety of accommodations.

A host of cultural interpretation and environmental awareness opportunities can be easily combined with other activities in this sector's relatively fixed location.

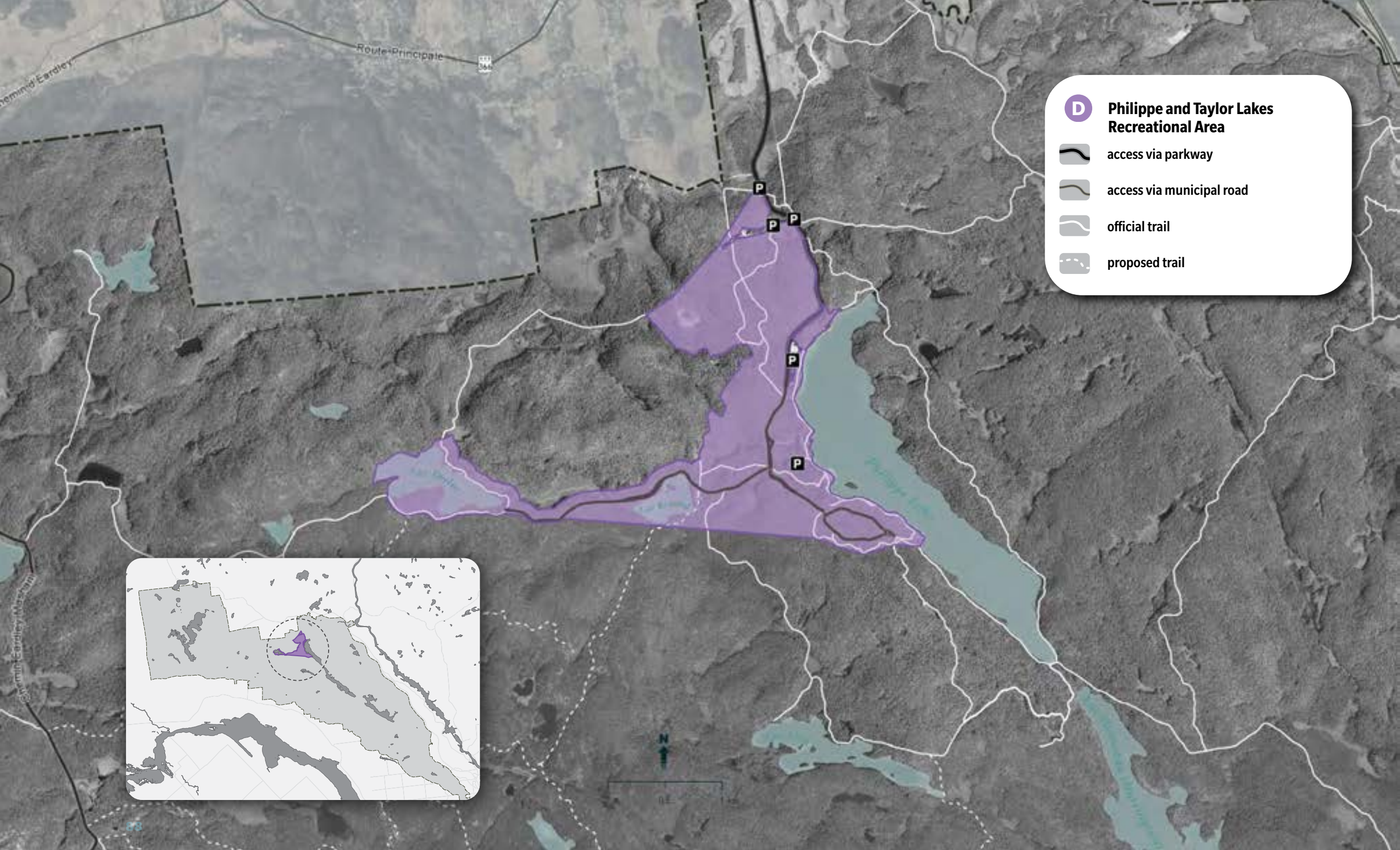
Its main access point is the Philippe Lake Parkway near the Sainte-Cécile-de-Masham sector in the municipality of La Pêche where a number of services have been established for park visitors. The Philippe Lake/Taylor Lake sector provides easy access to Lusk Cave, which is open to the public in summer. The sector also connects with the park’s southern section through a network of trails. Due to the popularity of recreational and tourist sites, the intensity of land use in the area is high in the summer and winter months where visitor infrastructure is insufficient to meet demand. However, in the fall, this area could absorb some of the visitation from the parkway area.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Provide nature-friendly eco-tourism recreation.
- ▶ Offer overnight stays allowing for special contact with nature.
- ▶ Offer environmental education opportunities associated with a conservation park.
- ▶ Provide public access to natural bodies of water in the Capital Region.
- ▶ Maintain water quality and biodiversity conservation.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Visitor centre, information
- ▶ Nature observation and cultural attractions
- ▶ Trail activities
- ▶ Hiking
- ▶ Cross-country skiing
- ▶ Snowshoeing
- ▶ Winter cycling
- ▶ Mountain biking
- ▶ Day shelters
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Beach and swimming in designated areas
- ▶ Non-motorized boating
- ▶ Bicycle and non-motorized boat rentals
- ▶ Launching of non-motorized boats
- ▶ Picnic area
- ▶ Snack bar
- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Access for motor vehicles
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Tent accommodations
- ▶ Ready-to-camp accommodations (mini-cabins, yurts, 4-season tents, trailers)
- ▶ Communal camping facilities at the Philippe campground (picnic area, kitchen, sheltered common area, food services, washrooms and showers, laundry facilities)
- ▶ Winter camping
- ▶ Philippe Lake store (camping goods and services)
- ▶ Summer event at Parent Beach and Breton Beach, if it meets the criteria for the acceptability of activities and events and is authorized by a permit issued by the NCC



**Philippe and Taylor Lakes
Recreational Area**



access via parkway



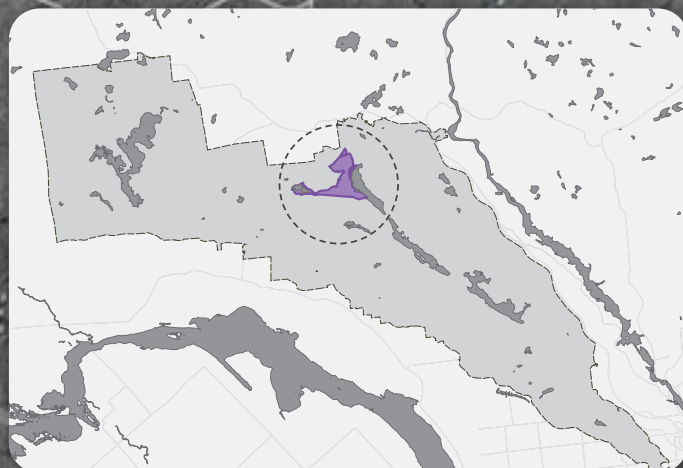
access via municipal road



official trail



proposed trail

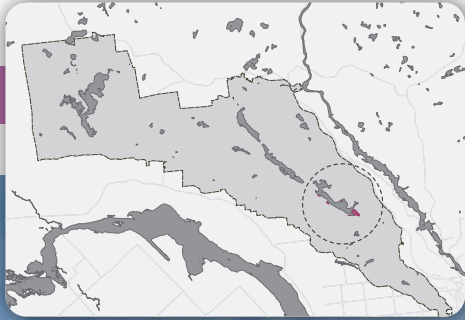


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Specific Policies

- ▶ Manage shorelines to help restore natural environments.
- ▶ Conserve the riparian vegetation strip and reintroduce it where it has degraded or disappeared.
- ▶ Encourage the use of non-motorized boats.
- ▶ Modernize campsites without increasing the existing footprint.
- ▶ Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plant species by educating boaters and requiring users to wash their boats prior to use.
- ▶ Prevent the spread of disease and insect pests by improving control over firewood coming from outside the park.



E MEECH LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA



Land Description

This area covers recreational sites around Meech Lake, namely the O'Brien and Blanchet public beaches and the McCloskey launch area. All these sites provide access to the lake for boating and water sports in the heart of the park's natural landscape.

These beaches and nearby parking lots are very busy in the summer. As a result, maximum visitor capacity is often reached in good weather.

The sector is also a starting point for trails leading to escarpment lookouts and the Eardley Plateau. Its parking areas are also busy on beautiful spring days, in winter and during the Fall Rhapsody.

The presence of a launch ramp has led boaters to ask for another location where they can dock and enjoy the scenery. Various north shore locations are currently used unofficially and without oversight, contributing to shoreline erosion.

The area’s recreational sites border a number of private homes on the south shore along Meech Lake Road. The road’s lakefront location near homes and recreational sites puts added pressure on the shoreline, as do private facilities that give residents waterfront access (docks, boathouses, etc.). Action is being taken with the community to upgrade shoreline conditions, prevent erosion and maintain water quality in the lake.

O’Brien House, Willson House, Hope House, and the Capuchin Chapel are also important to the area’s heritage and need to be protected and showcased.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Contemplate nature.
- ▶ Provide isolated recreational experiences, for lone visitors or small groups, close to the urban sector.
- ▶ Help people discover cultural landscapes and political and historical heritage.
- ▶ Provide public access to natural bodies of water in the Capital Region.
- ▶ Maintain water quality and biodiversity conservation.

Uses

- ▶ Swimming, beach
- ▶ Launching of non-motorized boats
- ▶ Trailheads
- ▶ Non-motorized boating
- ▶ Docking areas for rests while boating
- ▶ Interpretation, education

E

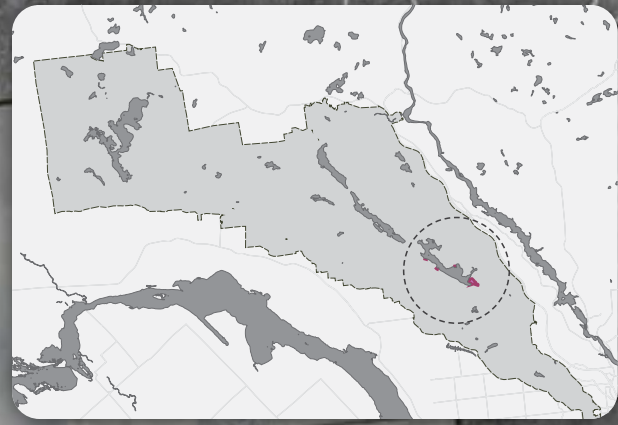
Meech Lake Recreational Area

access via parkway

access via municipal road

official trail

proposed trail



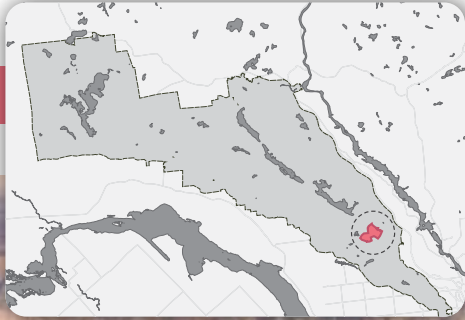
Specific Policies

- ▶ Manage shorelines to help restore natural environments.
 - ▶ Conserve the riparian vegetation strip and reintroduce it where it has degraded or disappeared.
 - ▶ Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plant species by educating boaters and requiring users to wash their boats prior to use.
 - ▶ Encourage the use of non-motorized boats.
 - ▶ Ensure the sustainable use of beaches by limiting their use to current levels, for example by controlling access based on parking capacity.
- ① Respect the beach areas. Prohibit the use of shorelines in areas not designated for their intended use.
 - ② Oversee the use of the lake’s north shore by designating a site as an official docking facility for non-motorized boats, and naturalize the other areas being used unofficially.
 - ③ Protect and showcase the cultural and heritage aspects of O’Brien House and Willson House.



Targeted Uses and Additional Policies

- Ⓐ O’Brien House and Willson House
- ▶ Limit the occupancy of sites associated with O’Brien House and Willson House to the existing footprint, including parking.
 - ▶ Promote a use for public use among the following:
 - Accommodations (hotel, lodge);
 - Licensed food and beverage services;
 - Venue for conferences;
 - Room rentals for events (receptions, weddings, celebrations, etc.).



F CAMP FORTUNE INTENSIVE RECREATIONAL AREA



Land Description

The Camp Fortune Intensive Recreational Area has been a sports and recreational area for over 100 years, with area residents coming to the area for downhill skiing. The Ottawa Ski Club had a long involvement in developing the ski area until the NCC took ownership of the site in the 1990s. The facilities were then conserved, and the site, which contributes to the local economy, is now operated by a private lessee who has invested the funds needed to maintain their historic use.

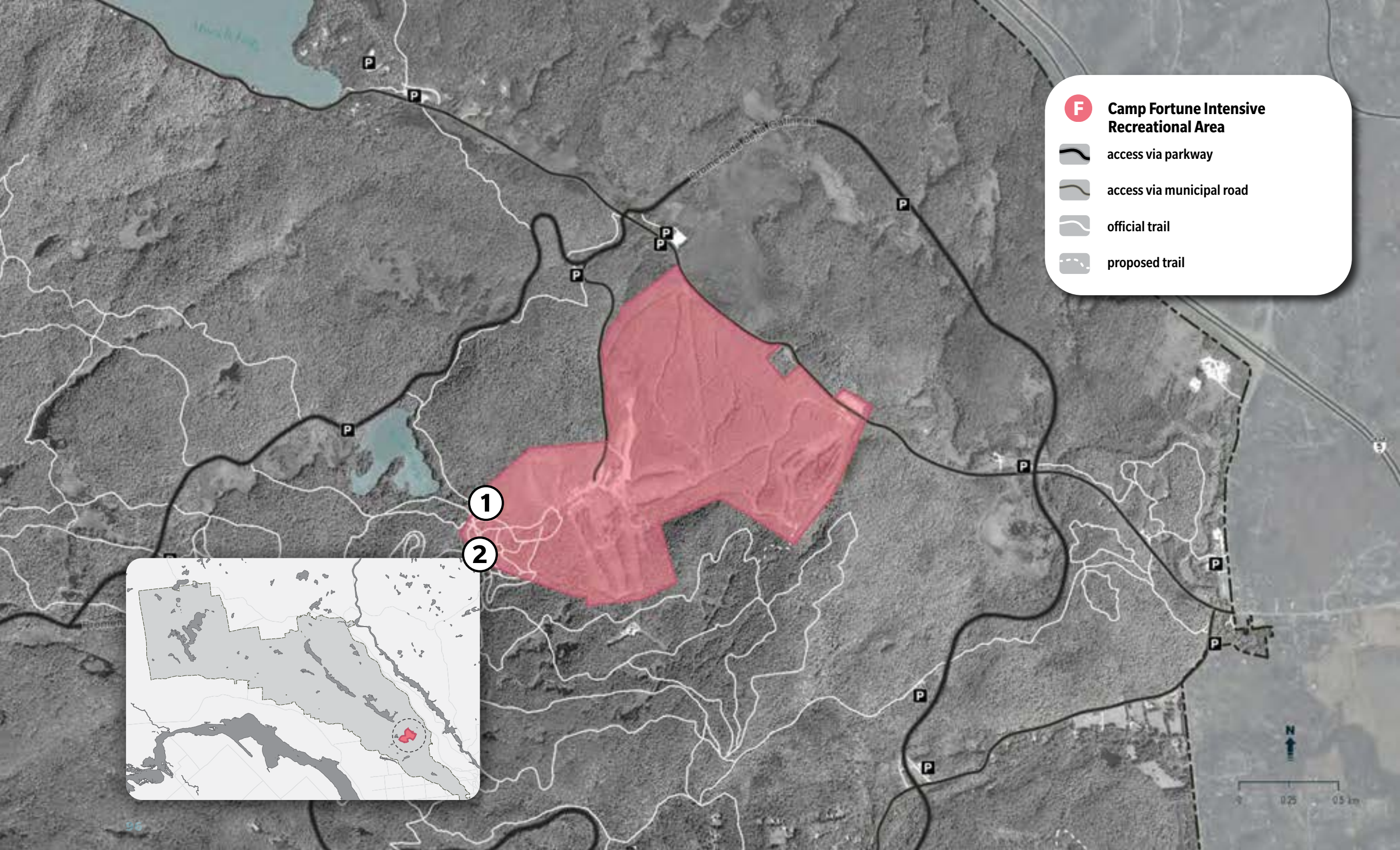
The site is still used for specialized recreation and sports. There is a high concentration of users and the recreational facilities can have a greater impact on the environment, which requires mitigation. Competitive activities are primarily directed to this location. It is used specifically for non-motorized and authorized outdoor sports (cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, mountain biking and biathlon).

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Showcase Camp Fortune's historical contribution to the park's use as an outdoor recreation venue.
- ▶ Maintain a downhill skiing station contributing to a diversified tourism offering close to the heart of the Capital.
- ▶ Concentrate and manage outdoor recreational uses that require major infrastructure and a significant land area.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Downhill ski centre (day and evening)
- ▶ Ski lodge with licensed food and beverage services
- ▶ Day shelters
- ▶ Special events (receptions, weddings)
- ▶ Room and space rentals
- ▶ Biathlon training, with range
- ▶ Sports competitions (summer and winter)
- ▶ Summer and winter trail activities (mountain biking, winter cycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.)
- ▶ Outdoor play requiring recreation facilities (alpine luge, aerial park, ziplining)
- ▶ Interpretation, education



F

**Camp Fortune Intensive
Recreational Area**



access via parkway



access via municipal road



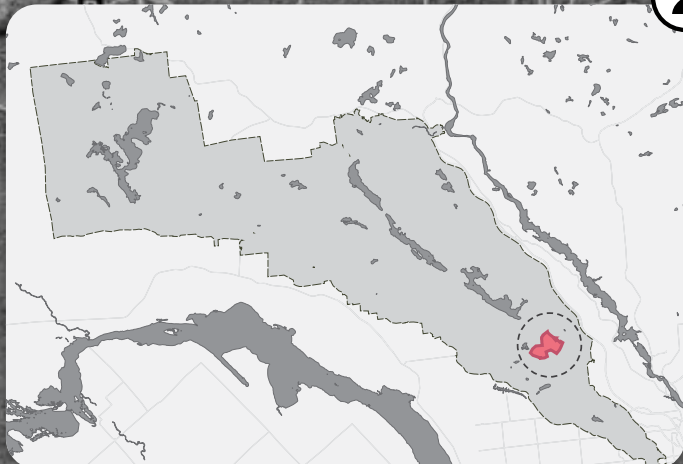
official trail



proposed trail

1

2

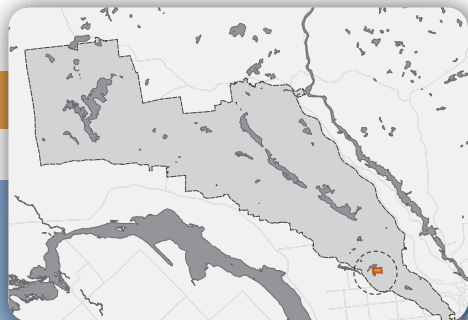


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0 0.25 0.5 km

Specific Policies

- ▶ Manage development and interventions at Camp Fortune to avoid cumulative effects on the natural environment of the site and beyond the boundaries.
 - ▶ Require the preparation of a Medium-Term Site Plan for this site to better anticipate the activities expansion and cumulative effects of the development.
 - ▶ Limit the expansion of authorized activities and add required infrastructure without exceeding the existing footprint corresponding to the site's currently cleared area.
 - ▶ Allow for activities included in the Medium-Term Site Plan in wooded areas if the areas are compensated based on NCC compensation policy and if the added enhancements or facilities do not increase the perimeter of the site already used.
 - ▶ Prepare a strategy to manage movements, reflecting infrastructure capacity, so as to reduce adverse effects from overloaded parking lots and access road congestion.
 - ▶ Adjust the travel management strategy for activity expansion projects.
 - ▶ Use Camp Fortune as a starting point for Gatineau Park cross-country skiing, hiking, and mountain bike trails.
 - ▶ Make Camp Fortune facilities and services accessible to users in other sectors of the park.
- ▶ Turn off trail lighting at night, outside of operating and maintenance periods, and gradually change lighting type to reduce light pollution.
 - ▶ Showcase the site's recreational history as the place where the park's ski network began.
 - ▶ Do not allow any form of accommodation.
- ① Limit the biathlon range to its existing surface area.
 - ② Explore the idea of converting the Sugar Shack to a day shelter.



G MACKENZIE KING ESTATE



2020

Land Description

This area’s heritage designation includes lands whose key purpose is to conserve and showcase heritage aspects with high added value (i.e., Mackenzie King Estate). This area includes the part of the Mackenzie King Estate located east of the Champlain Parkway. The objectives are to conserve and restore built heritage, cultural landscapes and natural features as well as enhance them for tourism purposes.

The intensity of land use is high and design quality must respect the configuration and historical value of the cultural landscape of the sites. This area allows for the consolidation of museological and interpretive activities – political and social life, cultural landscapes, natural environments – offering a range of hospitality and visitor information services, health services and complementary food services. The purpose of the site is to provide a heritage-based tourism experience. Natural environments can also be conserved and restored to maintain landscape characteristics. The official residence of the Speaker of the House of Commons is located there. This property is not open to the public.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Conserve the heritage characteristics, landscapes and buildings of the estate.
- ▶ Educate visitors on the history, figures and events related to the place; maintain one of the park’s main cultural interpretation sites.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Programming, shows
- ▶ Rental of outdoor locations (receptions, weddings)
- ▶ Museum, artifact exhibits
- ▶ Licensed food and beverage services
- ▶ Souvenir shop
- ▶ Hiking, snowshoeing
- ▶ Observation of natural environments and cultural landscapes
- ▶ Building conservation and showcasing
- ▶ Official residences
- ▶ Parking

G

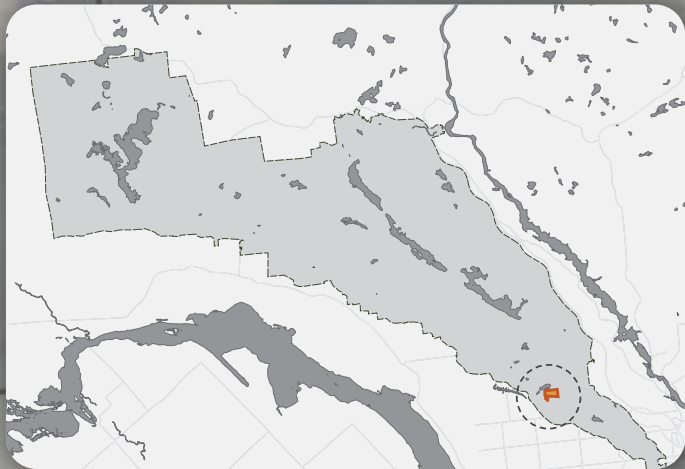
Mackenzie King Estate

access via parkway

access via municipal road

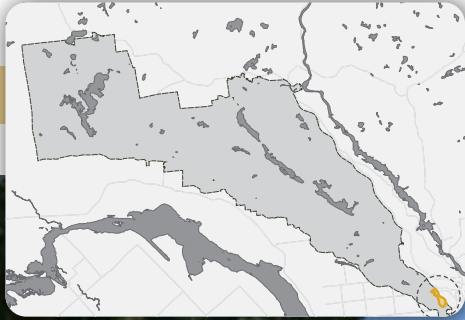
official trail

proposed trail



Specific Policies

- ▶ Continue the implementation of the Mackenzie King Area Site Plan and Design Guidelines.
- ▶ Ensure that the Site Plan is updated and that the guidelines are relevant.



H INSTITUTIONAL AREA



Land Description

The institutional designation area consists of the lands located along Boulevard de la Cité-des-Jeunes, in the City of Gatineau. These lands are occupied, among others, by the Asticou Centre, Heritage College, Collège de l'Outaouais, and Mont-Bleu Secondary School and its sports facilities, located at the back. Some of these lands are part of the 1973 agreement with the Government of Quebec. This agreement provides for the transfer of management and control over certain lands from the NCC to the Government of Quebec to enable the construction and development of educational institutions. This was in exchange for NCC management and control over other lands in the La Pêche Lake area.

The area's key purpose is still to provide educational, cultural, and recreational activities. Though the lands in this area are not central to the park's overall mission, they remain within park boundaries since their vast tracts around buildings help to conserve landscapes and maintain a natural habitat buffer zone. They are also a starting point for the park's trail system and provide access to parking on the outskirts of the park. Aside from educational and cultural uses, the sector permits some recreational uses associated with school-based sports facilities and non-motorized recreation. This involves high-intensity use and major changes to the receiving environment for construction. Efforts are also needed to conserve aspects of the site's ecosystems and natural landscapes.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

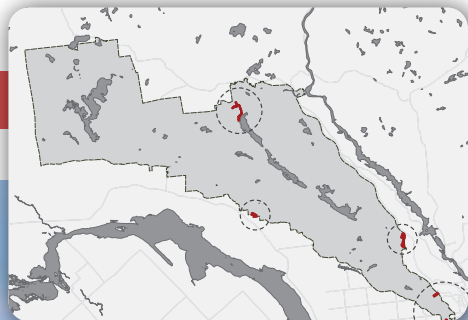
- ▶ Be a regional learning and institutional centre.
- ▶ Be an interface and a buffer between the park's wooded sector and the urban environment.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Educational institution
- ▶ Sports facility
- ▶ Federal job and training centre
- ▶ Interpretation, education
- ▶ Trail activities
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Transit terminal station

Specific Policies

- ▶ Adhere to the 1973 agreement between the NCC and the Government of Quebec.
- ▶ Allow for the expansion of authorized buildings and facilities, while maintaining a natural or landscaped buffer zone adjacent to the outdoor recreational site.
- ▶ Encourage the adoption of environmental best practices in outdoor management that promote forest cover, vegetation, surface permeability, avoidance of bird-window collisions.
- ▶ Encourage the maintenance of a vegetated buffer zone between wooded areas or wetlands and built-up areas that are at least 30 metres wide.
- ▶ If the land is put up for sale, consider the acquisition of the land to protect perceptible landscapes and environmental features that are beneficial to the park.



I VISITOR RECEPTION AREAS



Land Description

The visitor experience for new and infrequent visitors depends in large part on how they are received and the information they have at their disposal to prepare for their visit. Visitor reception areas are essential in this regard. They also allow for the concentration of various services that enrich the visitor experience.

Visitor reception areas are spread out on the periphery of the park. They are located in key areas near sectors of the park where recreation facilities are concentrated. They formalize certain entrances into the park and provide an initial point of contact with the natural environment. Aside from information and advice to make a visit more pleasant, they remind visitors of the need to protect and conserve the environment and our cultural heritage.

A variety of services, amenities and activities consistent with park directions are possible there. Tiered visitor reception areas help guide visitors to the wide range of services available. The main visitor reception area in

Gatineau Park is located at the Chelsea Visitor Centre. It is followed by the ones in Philippe Lake, Relais plein air and Pontiac, which provide a welcome for recreational activities specific to the area in which they are located. Other points are important seasonal gateways, such as the Gatineau Parkway to the south at Gamelin Street and Sincennes Road, which provides access to La Pêche Lake, where information and services are provided without regrouping all the services normally provided in visitor reception areas.

Visitor reception areas can also help deploy strategies to sustainably and collectively transport visitors to and within the park.

Specific Purpose and Objectives

- ▶ Welcome and guide visitors.
- ▶ Disseminate information on activities, interpretation and park rules.
- ▶ Communicate and promote the brand image of the Capital’s conservation park.
- ▶ Play a role in the exchange and promotion of the park’s cultural dimension.

Permitted Uses

- ▶ Pavilion to welcome visitors, where the following main uses are permitted:
 - Dissemination of park information
 - Exhibits
 - Interpretation, education
 - Orientation sessions for outdoor activities
 - Outdoor equipment rentals
 - User services (waxing room, lockers)
 - Indigenous cultural space
- ▶ Complementary visitor services
 - Sale of goods and services related to outdoor recreation
 - Food and beverage services (not licenced)
 - Rental of rooms and outdoor spaces (weddings, receptions, other events, etc.)
- ▶ Park administration, logistics and maintenance
 - Park offices and rooms for park activity groups or associations
 - Indoor storage
 - Parking
 - Recreation maintenance equipment and machinery repair shops
 - Storage of materials, equipment and vehicles related to recreation sites and their maintenance
 - Sustainable transportation infrastructure



Visitor Reception Areas



access via parkway



access via municipal road



official trail



proposed trail

1

3

1

2

3

1

2

3

4

4

4

0 0.3 0.6 km

108

0 0.25 0.5 km

0 0.2 0.6 km

Specific Policies

- ▶ **Allocate and organize visitor services to reflect the hierarchy of visitor reception areas:**
 - Main visitor reception area in Chelsea (Gatineau Park Visitor Centre):
 - Information, interpretation/education, visitor services (equipment rentals, waxing room, catering, sales of goods, daily storage, etc.), payment of access fees, exhibits and displays, meeting and gathering places, administrative offices;
 - Secondary visitor reception areas in Philippe Lake, Relais plein air and Pontiac (Luskville):
 - Information, interpretation/education, visitor services (equipment rentals, waxing room, catering, etc.), payment of access fees.
 - ▶ **Authorize activities and events that are in line with park policies.**
 - ▶ **Allow increasing the footprint to help improve the visitor centre infrastructure, equipment storage, and facilities for authorized activities, and take steps to promote sustainable transportation for park visitors.**
 - ▶ **Manage land use so it contributes to the quality of natural landscapes as perceived from outside the park.**
- ① Construct a new main visitor centre building in Chelsea.
 - ② Help streamline visitor traffic at the park's Chelsea entrance.
 - ③ Work with the municipality to remove, in a timely manner, municipal operations at the Crawley storage area at the corner of Scott Street and Highway 5 to use the site for visitor reception area functions.
 - ④ Maintain park visitor functions at the Relais plein air beyond the end of the planned lease (2030), fostering partnerships where possible.



7 Strategic Projects

7.1 HABITAT DEFRAGMENTATION – RESPONSIBLE TRAIL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Gatineau Park offers a network of official trails approximately 200 kilometres long. Over time, park users have created over 300 kilometres of unofficial trails, which affects the ecological integrity of the park. To address this issue, the NCC has implemented the Responsible Trail Management Project. This project aims to reduce the ecological fragmentation caused by the creation and use of unofficial trails and establish a new network of official trails offering varied and safe visitor experiences. Among other things, it proposes to integrate 100 of the 300 kilometres of unofficial trails into the official network and, in collaboration with user groups and volunteers, make them consistent with the park's conservation objectives. It also proposes to naturalize the remaining 200 kilometres of unofficial trails, which will reduce current habitat fragmentation and help improve the park's ecological health.

7.2 QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE STUDY AND VISITOR DATA

The NCC needs better data on Gatineau Park visitors. This will make it possible to better manage the park over the short, medium, or long term, and ensure that the measures and programs implemented are consistent with the orientations of the Master Plan and various policies. Once obtained, these data will need to be updated regularly.

**7.3 DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTIVITY AND
EVENT ACCEPTABILITY MATRIX.**

Based on the results of the public consultations for the Master Plan, the Gatineau Park management team will prepare an activity and event acceptability matrix. This matrix will be developed in consultation with all stakeholders and taking into account the park’s primary mandate of conservation.

7.4 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW VISITOR CENTRE

In the late 1990s, the NCC relocated the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre and administrative functions to 33 Scott Street, a large administrative building that also served as a garage. These activities have been adapted to the location, but the operational and administrative needs require another building. Therefore, the NCC plans to build a new structure that will include exceptional environmental sustainability, Indigenous space creation, design excellence, and optimal functionality.

7.5 MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPE LAKE CAMPGROUND

The Philippe Lake Campground in Gatineau Park dates to the late 1950s. Consequently, its layout reflects the standards and needs of the time. While the NCC’s facility modernization program has been successful in rehabilitating some washroom facilities, the ageing facilities at the site are increasingly failing to meet camper expectations and quality standards. As a result, modernization work is required to improve recreational offerings, improve the quality and functionality of infrastructure, and improve visitor services. This work will improve experience quality and reduce environmental impact.



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7.6 PROTECTION AND SHOWCASE OF THE CARBIDE WILLSON RUINS

The Carbide Willson Ruins Complex is an important heritage site in Gatineau Park. Due to weather and erosion, repairs and certain conservation measures are required. This complex is a popular destination for the public and is widely used in all seasons. Its restoration provides important opportunities for interpretation and communication of its heritage value as a key component of the park's history.

7.7 LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGY

The Gatineau Park Private Property Acquisition Strategy aims to continue the acquisition of private property within Gatineau Park – within the allocated budget and as much as possible on a mutually acceptable basis. The NCC will give priority to lands whose environmental and strategic importance supports the park's conservation purpose.

7.8 CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

The Sustainable Transportation Strategy includes many recommendations and solutions to improve transportation to and within the park. Some initiatives stemming from this strategy have been implemented, such as the closure of parkways at night and a shuttle service during the Fall Rhapsody, but more needs to be done. At the top of the list is an improvement in the sharing of the parkway network by users and the serving of users, notably through public transit and a permanent shuttle service.

7.9 REVIEW OF THE PRICING FRAMEWORK

In Gatineau Park, the NCC currently collects fees for some of the services provided. General access is free, but in terms of activities, the pricing structure is inconsistent. This imbalance could therefore be perceived as inequitable. The goal of the Pricing Framework Review Project is to find a system or combination of systems to apply a fair and consistent fee structure throughout the park, to direct visitors to appropriate areas and reduce environmental impacts.

7.10 PROTECTION OF THE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Ecosystem conservation is at the heart of the management of Gatineau Park. The park is home to a rich array of wildlife and plants and provides the National Capital Region with irreplaceable ecological services. Ecological connectivity through better protected corridors is a fundamental component of the proposed changes in the new Master Plan. To ensure the sustainability of these vital corridors for maintaining the park’s biodiversity and health, the NCC plans to work with conservation organizations, various stakeholders, and private landowners. The Ecological Corridors Protection Project will focus on the 12 corridors identified outside of the park in a 2009-2012 study, in collaboration with experts, local partners, and conservation organizations.



DRAFT - JULY 2020



8 Master Plan Administration and Monitoring

This chapter describes how the major orientations and proposals of the Gatineau Park Master Plan will be implemented over time, in a manner consistent with the *National Capital Act*. Instruments and processes for this purpose include:

- ▶ Approval of the Master Plan;
- ▶ Implementation of the Master Plan;
- ▶ Federal approvals for land use, design and real estate transactions applicable to federal lands and projects;
- ▶ Recommendations for the National Interest Land Mass;
- ▶ Changes and revisions to the Master Plan, if applicable;
- ▶ Establishment of the terms and conditions of existing and future agreements.

8.1 IMPACT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN ON PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANS

The Master Plan be in effect upon approval by the NCC Board of Directors. Federal approval granted by the NCC shall confirm the effective date and establish the conditions of approval (Appendix XX). It then becomes the primary reference plan for all matters pertaining to federal lands within Gatineau Park.

By approving the 2020 Gatineau Park Master Plan, the NCC cancels the 2005 Master Plan.

Specific plans apply to certain federally owned lands in the park. These plans are complementary to the Master Plan. The orientations and policies of some of these plans will continue to apply. In the event of a discrepancy between a particular plan and the Master Plan, the Master Plan prevails.

The following specific plans remain in effect. These plans are updated as required:

- ▶ Gatineau Park Ecosystem Conservation Plan;
- ▶ Gatineau Park Outdoor Activity Plan;
- ▶ Gatineau Park Sustainable Transportation Plan;
- ▶ Gatineau Park Cultural Heritage Plan;
- ▶ Gatineau Park Interpretation Strategy.

The following plans are repealed and the Master Plan takes precedence:

- ▶ Parkway Sector Plan (2000);
- ▶ Meech Creek Valley Land Use Concept (1998).

8.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Implementation of the approved Master Plan will mainly be the responsibility of the Capital Stewardship Branch. It is part of a medium-term action plan, extending over five to six years.

This action plan sets out a general roadmap indicating the predictable sequence for project delivery, the budgets and timeframes needed to implement them and the stakeholders to be engaged.

The action plan is accompanied by a bi-annual plan setting out the short-term priorities in a more precise manner. It orders the priorities based on the achievable objectives and the resource effectiveness. It identifies the human, technical and financial resources required, as well as the facilitating partnerships.

A number of factors influence the establishment of implementation priorities, including:

- ▶ Project consistency with NCC plans, goals, and organizational priorities;
- ▶ The best opportunity for project funding or partnerships;
- ▶ The immediate environmental and economic benefits of the project;
- ▶ Coordination with current or future projects;
- ▶ The time required to complete technical and scientific studies or obtain prior authorizations;
- ▶ The availability of technical and human resources.

In addition, some of the recommended initiatives will be straightforward to implement, while others will require in-depth studies and detailed plans. Any implementation is also necessarily subject to relevant federal legislation.

8.3 ADJUSTMENTS TO PARK BOUNDARIES

The NCC is responsible for the management and control of most of the lands that make up Gatineau Park, with the exception of a few private properties under municipal jurisdiction. The Master Plan recommends adjusting the park boundary to include adjacent lands owned by the NCC, identified as additions on Map 7 – Important Lands Outside Gatineau Park (Chapter 4).

8.4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST LAND MASS

The lands included in the National Interest Land Mass (NILM) are essential to the future of Canada's capital. NILM is an important implementation tool for its long-range plans, of which the Master Plan is part. NILM lands are necessary for the long-term support of the symbolism, functions, physical organization, and quality of habitats and natural and cultural landscapes of Canada's capital. The inclusion of land in the NILM is an official expression of the federal government's interest in the sustainable use of this land in support of NILM.

- ▶ NILM Lands
- ▶ Federal lands owned by the NCC, as well as private lands within the new park boundaries, are part of the NILM. The NCC's long-term intention is to acquire the major NILM lands that are not publicly owned.
- ▶ Map 7 – Important Lands Outside Gatineau Park (Chapter 4) shows some private lands outside of the park that provide access to recreational sites. They are identified as "Private Lands – Access to Recreational Space". These lands of importance to the NCC will need to be added to the NILM in order to begin the process of creating links between the road network and the park.

The NCC will acquire these lands within its acquisition budget and in compliance with Treasury Board requirements. This will be achieved through mutually agreed-upon transactions.

8.5 OTHER IMPORTANT LANDS

By contributing to the health of the park's ecosystems, ecological corridors, shown on Map 5 – Location of Potential Ecological Corridors Adjacent to Gatineau Park, are also important lands. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the natural features of these lands are protected as well as possible over the long term. To do this, it is recommended that protection mechanisms other than acquisition by the NCC be put in place, such as agreements with landowners, conservation easements, land management partnerships, and ecological gifts.

8.6 LEGAL STATUS

The legal framework for Gatineau Park must be studied with a view to making improvements, particularly by specifying the park's protected status and its boundaries. In particular, the technical description of the park boundaries needs to be updated. In addition, changing the legal framework will clarify the powers of its managers to manage it.

It is proposed to work with Public Services and Procurement Canada and Justice Canada to assess opportunities to strengthen the legislation to better protect ecosystems and provide the NCC with more modern means to manage park operations.

8.7 APPROVAL OF LAND USE AND DESIGN PROJECTS

Master Plan proposals must be implemented in accordance with the federal approval process managed by the NCC and sections 12 and 12.1 of the *National Capital Act*. Approval for federal land use, design and real estate transactions must be obtained for any new land use, new work or real property transactions on federal lands or buildings.

The approval process, under the coordination of the Capital Planning Branch, seeks to ensure that proposals comply with:

- ▶ Federal policies and guidelines, including those of the NCC;
- ▶ The *Impact Assessment Act*;
- ▶ The NCC Sustainable Development Strategy;
- ▶ The Plan for Canada's Capital;
- ▶ The Gatineau Park Master Plan;
- ▶ Applicable specific plans;
- ▶ NCC policies respecting specific planning-related matters or requirements, including the natural environment (including environmental impact assessments), heritage, and archaeology as well as economic and social factors;
- ▶ Any other requirements stipulated in the regulations, related approvals, leases, easements, other land interest instruments, restrictive covenants, special agreements or other relevant documents.

8.8 AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS TO THE PLAN

The Master Plan establishes the roles, goals, orientations, and policy statements required to fulfill the park's vision and ensure its sustainability. However, while requests to amend the Master Plan should be the exception and not the rule, some of its provisions may need to be changed or amended for the following reasons:

- ▶ A new study warrants a Master Plan adjustment;
- ▶ An update to the Plan for Canada's Capital requires an amendment to the plan;
- ▶ A more detailed plan is produced for a specific area of the park;
- ▶ An application for land use submitted by a third party or the NCC that receives support from the NCC Board of Directors is not in accordance with the orientations and policies in the Master Plan.

If, in order to approve a special project, any amendments to the Master Plan are required, the review of the plan is the responsibility of NCC staff, under the authority of the Vice-President of Capital Planning. The project proponent will be required to demonstrate the acceptability of the application, based on the following criteria:

- ▶ The relevance of the project to the strategic goals and orientations of the Master Plan, and the positive and negative effects it may have;
- ▶ Compliance of the project with the Master Plan's planning concept;
- ▶ The project's compatibility with other implementation mechanisms (e.g. policies and strategies);
- ▶ Compatibility of the project with existing and proposed land uses and designations on adjacent lands, including the impacts on them;
- ▶ The precedent to be set in the park and for its management if the application is approved;
- ▶ The financial repercussions on the NCC and the Capital;
- ▶ Any other relevant factor.

If an amendment to the plan is considered necessary, it must be approved by the NCC's Board of Directors. The amendment review and approval process provides for public consultation proportional to the scope of the proposed amendment. Any recommendations in this regard are the responsibility of the Vice-President of Capital Planning. A minor editorial change to clarify a sentence does not require a change to the Master Plan, only a simple correction to the version posted on the NCC website.

The boundaries for the park's land designations are based on the NCC's geographic information system (GIS) data. Over the life of the Master Plan, minor adjustments to the boundaries of some of these designations may be required to better reflect the objectives and provisions of the plan. A minor adjustment, such as a map correction, should not require a Master Plan amendment. Decisions in this regard are made by the office of the Vice-President of Capital Planning.

Approximately five years after the Master Plan's approval, the Vice-President of Capital Planning, in collaboration with the Vice-President of Capital Stewardship, will assess whether or not there is a need for a full review. The Master Plan must be updated or completely reviewed 10 to 15 years after it is approved. This is also the responsibility of the Vice-President of Capital Planning.

8.9 EXISTING AGREEMENTS

There are a number of pre-Master Plan agreements for the use of certain NCC properties in Gatineau Park. These formal agreements have been signed with various partners, such as municipalities, organizations, developers, and tenants. These are essentially leases and service contracts.

The NCC is gradually aligning all leases, service contracts and other agreements with the Master Plan's orientations, objectives, and policies. Thus, when one of these instruments becomes eligible for renewal or renegotiation, its content is reviewed and adjusted accordingly. In the case of leases, the responsibility falls to the Property Management Division. In the case of service contracts and other agreements, Gatineau Park management is responsible for them.

If a change in land use is proposed, the federal approval process must be followed. This process will be initiated by Real Property Management, in the case of leases, or by the team responsible for the portfolio in the case of service contracts or other agreements.



9 Conclusion

With this Master Plan, the NCC is taking another step in the evolution of Gatineau Park. Over the next decade, the NCC will prioritize the protection of the park's natural environments. It will also encourage those engaged in outdoor activities to take action in support of its conservation. Finally, it will initiate a process of reconciliation with local Indigenous communities

The vision outlined in the Master Plan promotes exceptional and inclusive experiences. Experiences where all visitors feel invited to experience the Capital's great park. The common thread of this plan is to create outdoor recreation opportunities, while at the same time defragmenting natural habitats. In this regard, a process calling on the help of the public is one of the ways to eliminate a large number of unofficial trails.

Protecting the entire park is necessary because its entire territory is home to important ecosystems and habitats. The Master Plan recommends working with regional stakeholders and landowners to ensure the park's ecological connectivity with other major natural environments in the region. By reducing the fragmentation, by limiting unofficial practices, and by rethinking access to the park, the plan proposes to enhance efforts to conserve and protect important ecosystems and natural environments – including ecological corridors, given that protecting the internal and external ecological connectivity is at the heart of the plan.

“Building the Capital's green web, as a model of promoting and protecting ecological health and biodiversity in an urban setting, is a key commitment envisioned by this plan. Protecting our shared natural heritage will be crucial to the vitality, attractiveness and resilience of the Capital Region over the next 50 years. Natural habitats and ecosystems play an important role in the Capital, and influence everyday life in the regional community.”

The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067

This is a huge task, but it should promote the conservation of natural corridors and the maintenance of natural ecosystem processes. Its prioritization will ensure that Gatineau Park remains the Capital's designated conservation park for current and future generations. This will provide Canadians and international visitors with unique experiences, while discovering Canada's natural environment, Canadian heritage sites and an exceptional place where outdoor recreation is practised with the utmost respect for ecosystems.

Gatineau Park is an intrinsic part of Canada's capital. That is why the NCC intends to pursue its conservation and protection mission. It is committed to continuing to exercise its planning and management activities with the utmost care, and to taking the necessary actions to ensure the park's sustainability. Its role as a Canadian leader in environmental protection will be highlighted through its innovative ways of managing a conservation park where environmentally-friendly recreation remains an important component.

To achieve the goals set out in the Master Plan, collaboration between organizations and user engagement are essential.

This plan initiates a process for reconciliation with Indigenous communities with respect to their traditional use of this part of Algonquin territory, and their ongoing physical, cultural, and spiritual connections with the land in Gatineau Park. A new collaborative relationship will be forged in order that Indigenous people can share in the stewardship of this significant place, as well represent their history, culture, and traditions in meaningful ways. Economic opportunities will also be explored.

The Master Plan will guide park planning and management for the next decade. A greater effort is now being made to showcase the intrinsic qualities of the park, by increasing the protection of its natural resources while providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy themselves in targeted areas. It is only with the help of all concerned – groups, associations, partners, residents and visitors – that this will be possible. In this way, future generations will be able to continue to enjoy this Capital treasure.

It is hoped that the community's commitment to the Gatineau Park will continue to grow over time. Strong collaboration with Indigenous communities and various stakeholders will help strengthen the relationship that will strengthen the NCC's ability to conserve, protect, and present the park, for everyone and for a long time to come.

As stated in the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, the health of our green spaces, including Gatineau Park, is "a collective and shared responsibility".